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Standard History of

Adams and Wells Counties Indiana

An Authentic Narrative of the Past, with an Extended Survey of Modern Developments in the Progress of Town and Country

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Under the Editorial Supervision of

JOHN W. TYNDALL. Decatur

For Adams County

and

O. E. LESH, Bluffton

For Wells County

Assisted by a Board of Advisory Editors

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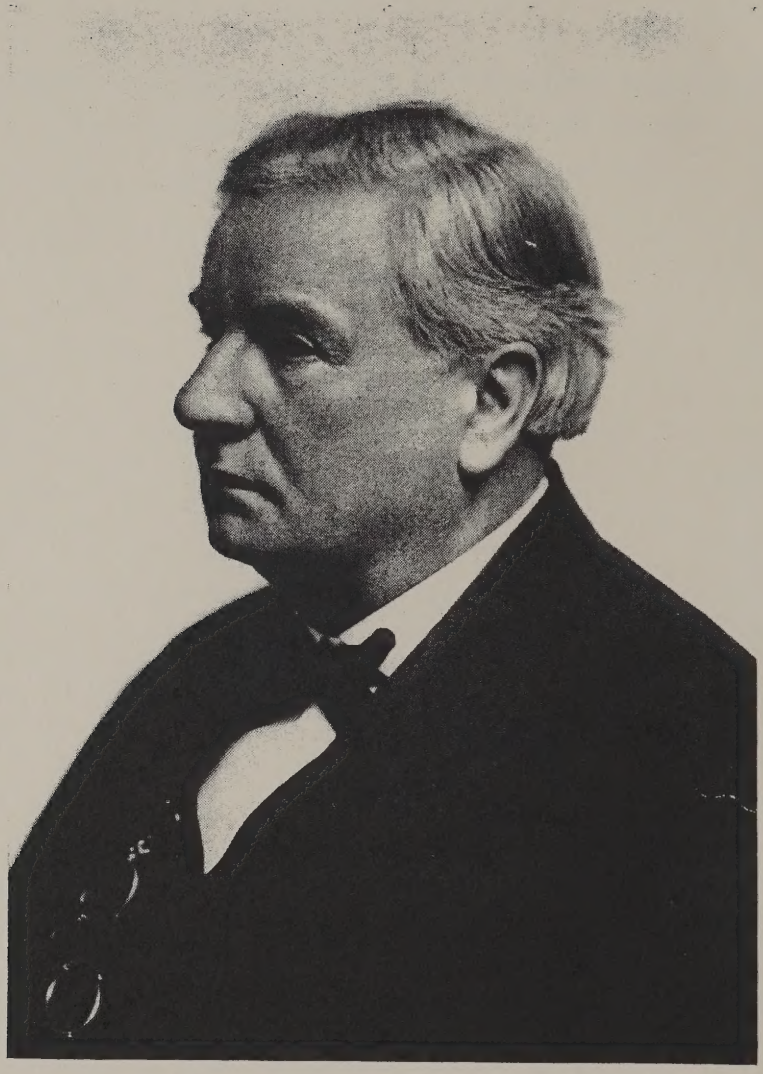


P. A. ALLEN

Adams and Wells Counties

PROF. PHILEMON A. ALLEN, superintendent of the public schools of Bluffton, Indiana, has been associated with educational work in the Hoosier State during much of his active career. For twelve years, however, he was interested in journalism and during that time was editor of the Bluffton Banner. Holding advanced ideas concerning education and methods of teaching, during the ten years of his incumbency as superintendent of the Bluffton schools, he has introduced many methods that are proving of the most practical value in making the school what it ever should be—a preparation for the responsible duties which devolve upon every individual after reaching maturity. His course has received the hearty approval of the most progressive citizens of Bluffton and he has procured the co-operation of his teachers to such an extent that the result is one of great benefit to the pupils enrolled.

A native of Whitley County, Indiana, Philemon A. Allen was born January 29, 1853, and he is a son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Force) Allen, both natives of Akron, Ohio, where they were reared, educated and married. Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Allen came to Indiana in 1843 and located in Whitley County, then all woods, and there operated a saw mill with marked success for a number of years. There were nine children born to them, three of whom died in infancy and three of whom are living, in 1917. William and Wesley Allen, two of their sons, were both Union soldiers in the Civil war. The Allens were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and they were influential citizens in their own community.

Born and reared on a farm, Professor Allen attended the neighboring district school during the winter months and in the summer time ably assisted his father and brothers in the work and management of the old homestead. So diligent had he been in procuring an education that at the age of seventeen years he began to teach school himself. In 1873 he entered the National Normal School, at Lebanon, Ohio, and after several years' attendance in that institution he taught school for two years in Mason County, Illinois. During the year of 1875 he was a student in Fort Wayne College, where he subsequently became an instructor in the normal department, holding that position for two years. In 1877 he was elected superintendent of the Ossian schools and he served in that capacity with the utmost efficiency for a period of four years, during which time he raised the standard of and graded the schools. In 1881, in order to make himself more efficient as an educator, he traveled extensively in Europe and while there made a thorough study of the school systems of the various countries he visited. Immediately after his return home he was elected superintendent of the Bluffton schools, holding that position for ten years. One of the first things he did on assuming office was to organize a high school, the first class of which graduated in June, 1883. In every possible manner Professor Allen

raised the standard of the schools under his guidance and did much to stimulate the pupils to greater efficiency in their school work. In May, 1891, he resigned his office as head of the Bluffton schools and was installed as editor of the Bluffton Banner. For the succeeding twelve years the dissemination of news, the discussion of public questions and the promotion of the general welfare through the columns of his paper constituted life's object with him as a private citizen. Returning to the educational field in 1905, Professor Allen established a business college in Bluffton and conducted the same with marked success for a period of two years. In 1907 he was again prevailed upon to serve as local superintendent of schools and by successive re-elections he has continued to serve in that capacity up to the present time, in 1918.

Professor Allen is a democrat in politics and in a fraternal way is a Royal Arch Mason. His religious faith coincides with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he served as superintendent of Sunday school for twenty-four years.

December 25, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Professor Allen to Miss Georgiana Swaim. She was born at Troy, Ohio, and was educated in the public schools of Ossian. Mrs. Allen, prior to her marriage, was a teacher in Wells County and she is now an enthusiastic church and Sunday-school worker. Two children were born to Professor and Mrs. Allen: Forrest and Lucile. Forrest was graduated in the Bluffton High School as a member of the class of 1903 and he is now one of the assistant superintendents of the National Malleable Castings Company, in Chicago. In October, 1911, he married Grace Murray, of Chicago, and they have three children, namely: Murray Bernard, Charles Forrest and Patricia. Lucile, born October 2, 1888, died February 6, 1891.

Hon. David Studabaker. No one would regard it as a disparagement or criticism of other men to say that Hon. David Studabaker was one of the greatest, most commanding figures in the life and affairs of Adams County whether as a lawyer, banker, or all around citizen. His is one of the names that recurs most frequently in the reminiscences of the older and later generations, and so far as possible the record of his life should be set forth without diminishment or abbreviation, even though a number of years have elapsed since he quit this mortal presence.

He was born at Fort Recovery, Ohio, August 12, 1827, and died at his home in Decatur May 3, 1904, in his seventy-seventh year. The Studabakers are of Holland ancestry, originally lived in Pennsylvania, and the Studabakers of Adams County, of Wells County, and the famous manufacturing family of Studebakers of South Bend all trace their descent from a common ancestor several generations back.

The father of David Studabaker was Peter Studabaker, who had moved from his old home at Fort Recovery to Jay County, Indiana, and was the first settler at Portland in that county. In 1833 Peter Studabaker came to the Wabash River in the southern part of Root Township, and was one of the first to take up land at Geneva. He was industriously engaged in the development of his farm on the Wabash, and while thus employed was stricken with typhoid fever and died in 1840. Peter Studabaker married Mary J. Simison, whose family also were prominent pioneers of Adams County.

David Studabaker was seven years of age when his parents removed to Adams County and he grew up in Wabash Township, trained to the duties and occupations of a farmer and as the oldest child though only thirteen years of age when his father died, he assumed many of the responsibilities and burdens of keeping the rest of the family together. He received an education in primary schools which he attended during

the winter months, and was a pupil in the first school taught in Wells County. It was a subscription school, the teacher an Irishman, and was held in a primitive log cabin with a puncheon floor, the window being made by leaving out a log from the wall and the space covered over with greased paper. David Studabaker also attended a high school near Greenville, Ohio, one term, and the Jay County Seminary at Portland a year and a half. In the meantime he had qualified and had taught district schools in both Adams and Wells counties. Teaching was more or less a constant occupation with him until the spring of 1851, when he began the study of law in the office of Hon. Jacob M. Haines at Portland. In June, 1852, he was admitted to the bar at Portland, before Judge Jeremiah Smith. Later in the same month he located at Decatur and began the practice of his profession. It is said that while living with his mother in their home on the Wabash he was greatly encouraged in the pursuit of his law studies by P. N. Collins, an acquaintance and political leader, and by his lifelong friend and neighbor David McDonald, who subsequently became sheriff of Adams County and served in the State Legislature. Uncle David McDonald, as he was commonly called, was something of a hunter, and while he and young David were in the woods the older man would always insist that the younger make a speech, and thus he greatly encouraged and trained his budding forensic talents.

Mr. Studabaker practiced law at Decatur until 1883, a period of thirty-one years. During that time he was associated a number of years with James R. Bobo and John P. Quinn. Along with his law practice he began dealing in real estate at a very early time. He had an important public record, beginning in 1852 with his election as prosecuting attorney for the district of Allen and Adams counties. He filled that office two years and in 1854 was elected to represent Adams County in the lower house of the Legislature and was reelected in 1856. In 1858 the district of Adams, Jay and Wells counties sent him to the State Senate and in 1868 he was elected judge of the Common Pleas Court for the district of Adams, Allen, Huntington and Wells counties. He resigned this office before his term expired.

He proved himself an excellent judge, his knowledge of the law was profound, and his administering of the ends of justice was tempered with moderation and with consideration. The attorneys who practiced in his court found in him a man who was eminently fair and courteous and he filled the office to which he had been chosen with dignity and to his lasting credit.

For many years Judge Studabaker was chiefly a figure in the commercial life and the larger affairs of his section of Indiana. In 1869 he was one of the promoters of the Richmond & Fort Wayne Railroad, was elected one of its directors, and held that position for a long period of years, in fact until his death. In 1871 he became a stockholder in the Adams County Bank, and when it was incorporated in 1874 he was chosen a director and vice president and in 1883 elected president. He was also a director of the Bankers National Bank of Chicago, the First National Bank of Marion, Indiana, the Bank of Geneva and the Bank of Berne, and the First National of Fort Wayne and the Bank of Wren, Ohio. In politics he was an active democrat.

On October 26, 1854, David Studabaker married Miss Harriet Evans, whose father, John K. Evans, was a prominent figure in the state's history and had been shortly before the marriage of his daughter to David Studabaker associate judge of the District Court in which Adams County was located. Mrs. David Studabaker died June 7, 1891. In June, 1895, he married Mrs. Jennie Phelps, who survived him. The

children of Judge Studabaker who reached maturity were: Mary, wife of John Niblick of Decatur; Mrs. Lizzie Morrison of Decatur; Hattie; Mrs. W. J. Vesey of Fort Wayne; and David E.

How much the career of Judge Studabaker meant to the people of Adams County was well expressed in the words of an editorial in the Decatur Democrat, quoted herewith: "In the death of Judge David Studabaker a worthy and honored citizen has lived his allotted time and passed to the Great Beyond. During his long life, covering a period of three score years and ten, we look back upon a busy, active and useful career, in which he rose from a self educated boy to a school teacher, then a law student, lawyer, judge, banker and in later years has been as busy and as energetic in the control and management of his many and varied personal interests. All of these he managed and directed to the last days of his last illness, and he died honored and respected to the highest degree. Such a life is worthy of the ambition that is rife in the mad rush of progress, and its emulation should be a high ideal among the youth who are striving to win laurels in the days and years to come. Judge Studabaker's public and private life is an open book, and upon its pages are written many good deeds of charity and encouragement. Public spirited, kind and observant, his counsel and advice will be severely missed but thanks to the seed that has been sown Judge Studabaker will live for many and many years to come."

JOHN NIBLICK. It would be impossible to tell the history of Adams County or recount the business activities of the City of Decatur with a multiplication of reference to members of the Niblick family. More than eighty years ago they settled in the county, then a complete wilderness. They did the work of pioneers, clearing up the forests, making possible the cultivation of land, and their business enterprise took many directions. One branch of the family, of which Mr. John Niblick is a member, has been especially identified with merchandising and banking at Decatur. Mr. John Niblick is president of Niblick & Company, conducting perhaps the chief department store of Adams County, and it is interesting to note that this business is a lineal and logical successor of a stock of merchandise established in a log house in Decatur more than seventy-five years ago.

The Niblicks from time out of mind have been Irish Presbyterians, their original home being in County Armagh, Ireland. Several generations ago the name was spelled Niblack, and it was the grandfather of Mr. John Niblick who changed the spelling to the present form. The founder of the family in America was known as John Niblack, Sr., who was born in County Armagh of old Irish stock. Besides farming he was also an Irish miller. He brought his family to America about 1803.

James Niblick and his twin brother Robert were both pioneers of Adams County, Indiana. James Niblick was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in 1801 and was brought by his parents to America at the age of two years. From New York State they removed to Ohio, where James Niblick's brother followed farming and James learned the cooper's trade, and in the fall of 1834 came to Adams County, settling on section 6 of Washington Township. He is said to have been the ninth settler in the county. He subsequently sold his farm in that township and moved to Decatur, and later removed to Missouri, where he lived until his death in the fall of 1869.

Before coming to Indiana James and Robert Niblick lived for some time in Tuscarawas and Harrison counties, Ohio. James married his

first wife there, Anna Carter, and they brought with them to Adams County two children, Jesse and Adelaide. They arrived in this county the same year as Decatur was laid out as a town. Robert Niblick made settlement at the same time and in the same community. Before they could engage in agriculture it was necessary to clear away the heavy forests which encumbered the land, and their first homes were log cabins. Indians were still numerous, and these pioneers had no difficulty in supplying the table with provisions of wild game. There were no roads nor bridges, and the Niblick brothers cut or blazed trails through the woods in order to mark the way to their habitation. Robert Niblick died on his old homestead in Adams County. James Niblick married for his second wife Sarah A. Ball, who died in the fall of 1886, having returned to Decatur after her husband died in Missouri. James Niblick was the father of sixteen children, eight by each wife, there being five sons and three daughters of the first marriage and one son and seven daughters of the second. Among the children of the first marriage were Robert, Jesse, Mary Jane, Adelaide and William S. William is a bachelor and still living in Chicago. Adelaide is Mrs. James Dailey and lives in Wells County.

Jesse Niblick, son of James and Anna (Carter) Niblick, was born in what is now Carroll County, Ohio, August 12, 1826. His mother died on the old homestead in Adams County August 12, 1838. Jesse Niblick was about ten years of age when the family came to Adams County and a few years later his grandfather, John Niblick, gave him the opportunity of attending school at Cadiz, Ohio. In 1842 he returned to the home farm, and he soon began an apprenticeship at the shoemaker's trade, and in 1846 engaged in that business for himself. He thus became early identified with the business affairs of Decatur, and continued the boot and shoe business until 1866. In that year he sold his business to his brother-in-law and in July of that year bought an interest in a general store with John Crawford, under the name Niblick and Crawford. They bought the stock of merchandise established by that pioneer of Decatur merchants, John Nutman. Later the firm of Niblick & Crawford brought in their sons as partners and the business title was changed to Niblick, Crawford & Sons. In February, 1887, the Crawfords withdrew and from that time on Mr. Niblick was active head of the business until his death in October, 1895. After that the store was conducted by his son John and the latter's brothers as executors, and in March, 1897, the business was incorporated under the name of Niblick & Company. This has been developed as a large department store, carrying a stock of staple merchandise sufficient to supply all the demands of both city and country dwellers. Thus there has been no interruption to a business which was established by J. D. Nutman in a log house in Decatur in 1840. Years have brought many increases and changes in style and quarters, but the house is today one of the oldest business firms of the county.

In 1871 Jesse Niblick with J. D. Nutman engaged in a private banking business, opening the Adams County Bank, Niblick & Nutman, bankers. Later David Studabaker and R. W. Allison became associated with them. Joseph D. Nutman was responsible for the establishment of the first bank at Decatur in 1857. The institution was moved to Fort Wayne several years later. The permanent banking history of the city begins with the year 1871. Mr. Nutman soon retired from banking, leaving the firm Niblick, Studabaker & Company, and in August, 1874, the Adams County Bank was organized with a state charter. Jesse Niblick was elected a director and the first president of this bank, and was later succeeded by R. B. Allison as presi-

dent, he taking the office of vice president. Jesse Niblick was also identified with the organization of Eagle Manufacturing Company of Decatur. He was also prominent in local affairs, was a stanch democrat, was elected clerk of Washington Township in 1848 and until 1865 was either clerk or trustee of the township, sometimes holding both offices at once. In the fall of 1865 he was elected county treasurer and reelected in 1867. For many years from 1870 he held the office of village trustee or councilman.

Jesse Niblick married October 16, 1851, Miss Catherine Closs, a native of Germany and a daughter of John and Catherine Closs. Jesse Niblick and wife were the parents of eight children. The sons to grow up were William, John, James K., Charles and Daniel.

Mr. John Niblick has spent all his active life in the atmosphere of the business which was established by his father. He was born in Decatur in a home that stood on the public square January 8, 1853. He was educated in the local schools and early became identified with the store of his father. He has been president of Niblick & Company since it was incorporated in 1897, and his brother Daniel is the present secretary of the company. His niece Mary Catherine Niblick has for many years presided at some of the important departments of the store, and several of the many employees have long and faithful records of service and have contributed much to the prosperity and importance of the establishment. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the largest mercantile enterprise of its kind in Adams County.

While the conduct of this store has absorbed Mr. Niblick's best abilities, he has never neglected to contribute his resources and influence to the public welfare in every possible way. He is a director and member of the finance committee of the old Adams County Bank. This institution which was first started by the state in 1874 as above noted, was conducted throughout the twenty years of its first charter as the Adams County Bank. It was rechartered in 1894 and then became the Old Adams County Bank. In 1914 it was again chartered and during the more than forty years of its existence no depositor has ever lost a single dollar and the resources and integrity of the institution are unimpaired to the present time.

On May 18, 1876, Mr. John Niblick married Mary A. Studabaker. She was born in Decatur in 1855, grew up and received her early education there and in 1875 graduated from Glendale College, at Glendale, Ohio. The Studabaker family have been identified with Adams and Wells counties for fully eighty years, and their relations with banking, business, law and civic and social affairs give them an enviable prominence in the history of this locality. Judge David Studabaker was a cousin of the great family of Studebakers of South Bend, Indiana, though there is a slight variation in the spelling of the name. Judge David Studabaker in early life was a teacher, was admitted to the bar in 1852, was in active practice of law at Decatur over thirty years, and filled many offices, including prosecuting attorney, member of the legislature and senate and judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was also a railroad builder and was long active in the Adams County Bank. His death occurred in 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. John Niblick had four children: Harrie E. married Arthur D. Suttles, now assistant cashier of the Old Adams County Bank. Mr. Suttles was well educated in the Decatur High School and Normal School, and for about eight years was principal of a ward school in Decatur and he has been connected with the Old Adams County Bank since 1907. They have four children, Mary, Josephine, Arthur D., Jr., and Helen. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. John

Niblick is Josephine, wife of O. P. Edwards of Leipsic, Ohio. They have one daughter, Harriet. Burton S. is now bookkeeper in the Old Adams County Bank and married Bessie Nolan. Helen, the youngest child, is a graduate of Lake Forest College, studied at Mount Holyoke, is a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware and took domestic science work in Chicago. She has been very active in local affairs at Decatur and especially prominent in Red Cross matters. The Niblick family are active members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Niblick is a democrat.

Ralph Studabaker Todd. It is not necessary that the man who achieves success be made of sterner stuff than his fellow man, but there are certain indispensable characteristics that contribute to the prosperity of an individual; these are energy, ambition, determination and the ability to recognize and improve success. These qualities are cardinal elements in the character of Ralph Studabaker Todd and have accompanied him in his progress to a position of prominence and affluence. Mr. Todd is one of the substantial citizens of Bluffton and is president of the Studabaker Bank here.

Jacob Todd, grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1805, and his wife, whose maiden name was Jane Thomas, was a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, where her birth occurred January 2, 1807. After their marriage they located on a farm in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and there resided until 1851, when they came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled on a farm in section 19, Jefferson Township. The latter place was their home until their respective deaths, he passing away November 3, 1861, and she died June 5, 1888. Jacob J. Todd, son of Jacob and Jane (Thomas) Todd and father of Ralph S. Todd, was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1843, and he was eight years of age when the family home was established in Indiana. After completing the curriculum of the public schools of Wells County he attended Roanoke Seminary and Fort Wayne College. He taught school during most of the time from 1861 to 1866. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, but was rejected on account of poor health. In April, 1864, he was accepted as a volunteer in Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and he served until October, 1864, when he was honorably discharged. During his spare time while teaching school he studied law and was admitted to the bar May 22, 1866. His first political office was that of assessor of Jefferson Township, Wells County, and in June, 1872, he was appointed national alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia. In 1880 he was delegate to the same convention in Chicago. He was prominent both in state and national politics. August 12, 1876, he married Mary J. Studabaker, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Angel) Studabaker. Mrs. Todd was educated in the Bluffton schools and in Fort Wayne College. To this marriage were born two children: Mary and Ralph S. Jacob J. Todd was a Knight Templar and a thirty-second degree Mason and in that connection he served for one year as grand master of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana. He died May 13, 1900, and his cherished and devoted wife passed to rest February 7, 1903.

Jacob J. Todd left an indelible impression on the public life in Bluffton. No citizen of the community was ever more respected and no man ever more fully enjoyed the confidence of the people or more richly deserved the esteem in which he was held. In his lifetime the people of his community, recognizing his merit, rejoiced in his advancement and

in the honors he attained and since his death they have cherished his memory, which remains as a blessed benediction to all who knew him. Honorable in business, public-spirited in civil life, charitable in thought, kindly in action, true to every trust confided to his care, his life was the highest type of Christian manhood.

Ralph S. Todd, born in Bluffton August 5, 1880, was graduated in the local high school in June, 1897, and in the fall of that year he entered DePauw University at Greencastle, Indiana, in which excellent institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1901, with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He initiated his business career as a bookkeeper in The Studabaker Bank in Bluffton, and in due time became assistant cashier and later cashier of that substantial financial institution. In June, 1909, he was chosen president of the bank and had the distinction of being the youngest man to hold such a position in the State of Indiana. He is still the efficient incumbent of that position, filling it with satisfaction to all and credit to himself. He is a director in the Studabaker Grain & Seed Company, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the W. B. Brown Company, director in the Bank of Petroleum and in the Fair View Cemetery Association and one of the trustees of DePauw University.

While a student in De Pauw University, Mr. Todd became acquainted with Miss Agnes Moulden, of Greenfield, Indiana, and his marriage to her was solemnized October 15, 1902. She was born in Marion County, Indiana, August 29, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Todd have two children: James Moulden, born February 2, 1904; and Martha, born October 6, 1909. They are valued and appreciative members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a member of the board of trustees.

Fraternally Mr. Todd is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of Bluffton Commandery, Knights Templar, and of Mizpah Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is past chancellor of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and is connected with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a stalwart republican and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Chicago in 1916. As a loyal and public-spirited citizen Mr. Todd commands the unqualified esteem of his fellow men and he is regarded as a substatial and influential factor in the civic and industrial life of Bluffton and of Wells County.

Hon. Silas W. Hale. As Mr. Hale is one of the advisory editors for Adams County in this publication, his career is a subject of general interest to all the readers. But aside from this, the achievements of a long and worthy life deserve such description and record as a work of this kind alone can afford.

Mr. Hale was born at Bluffton in Wells County, Indiana, September 18, 1844, son of Bowen and Mary Ann (Deam) Hale. His father, Bowen Hale, was born in Kentucky in 1801, but from early youth was reared in Greene County, Ohio. His early environment was that of a farm, but he also learned the trade of chair maker and painter. During the '20s he worked at these trades along the Mississippi River and in a number of the old towns in that section of the country. He finally came to Indiana and engaged in merchandising at Fort Wayne and from there moved to Wells County. He was one of the pioneers of Wells County, was here at the time of organization, and became one of the prominent citizens and officials of Bluffton. He was postmaster, clerk of the County Court after its organization, and was always keenly interested in public affairs. He lived at Bluffton until his death in 1887. His wife, Mary A. Deam, was a native of Ohio. Bowen Hale was a demo-

crat and a member of the Masonic fraternity. His children were: John D., former clerk of the County Court of Adams County; Silas W.; James P., who became a prominent lawyer at Bluffton; Emma, who married Andrew Van Emmon; Jane, who married Daniel Markley; Mary; and Bowen.

Silas W. Hale is today one of the oldest surviving native sons of Bluffton. He grew up there, attended some of the early schools, graduating from high school. At the age of eighteen during 1862-63 he taught in a country district. In December, 1864, Mr. Hale enlisted in the army and was made sergeant in Company E of the 153rd Indiana Infantry. Later he was transferred to the quartermaster's department and served with the Army of the Tennessee during the final months of the great war. He was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, in September, 1865.

After the war Mr. Hale was employed in the store of A. Deam & Company at Bluffton as a clerk, and remained there until 1869, when he joined his brother John D. Hale at Bluffton in the grain and produce trade under the firm name of J. D. Hale & Brother. In 1871 they transferred their business to Geneva in Adams County. The partnership was continued until 1878. In the meantime from 1873 to 1878 Silas Hale was also telegraph operator for the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway at Geneva, and during 1876-77 was also station agent for that road.

Upon the dissolution of the partnership in 1878 Silas Hale moved to Portland, Indiana, and engaged in the same line of business there. In 1883 John D. Hale was elected to the office of county clerk of Adams County. His brother then sold his business interests at Portland and returned to Geneva to take charge of the prosperous establishment in that place, and continued it with growing success and energy until he finally retired in 1902. Mr. Hale still makes his home in Geneva.

For a long period of years Mr. Hale's name has been associated with offices of trust and responsibility in this part of the state. One of his earliest positions at Geneva was as member of the School Board from 1883 to 1886, and altogether he put in eighteen years on the board of education and has exercised every influence in his power to promote the welfare of the local schools. In 1886 he was elected to represent Adams, Jay and Blackford counties in the senate and was a member of that body during 1887 and 1889. During the session of 1889 he was chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, and his study and careful planning brought about the military laws under which Indiana has conducted its state military organization since that date.

In 1891 Mr. Hale was elected by the Legislature a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane, and was on that board twelve years, all of the time its treasurer. He spent much of his time in looking after the material welfare and upkeep of the institutions under the board and was also a close student of the many subjects connected with the administration of insane hospitals. By virtue of his office he also was a member of the National Conference of Charities which met in various cities of the United States. At the close of his long service of twelve years as a member of the Board of Trustees and upon his retirement the Board of State Charities passed a very complimentary resolution giving him credit for painstaking, careful and conscientious service in every relationship with the board.

After retiring from this board he was appointed one of the trustees to establish and organize the epileptic village near Newcastle. That great institution owes much to him for its foundation and he was a member of its Board of Trustees four years.

Mr. Hale has found many interests to give him useful occupation

even in his later years. He has been an officer of the Bank of Geneva. He has rounded out more than half a century of membership in the Masonic order. He was first made a Mason in Bluffton Lodge in 1867. In 1878 he transferred his membership to Portland and was master of Portland Lodge in 1882 for one year. On returning to Geneva he became a charter member of Geneva Lodge No. 621 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has been one of its most regular attendants. He is also a member of the Lodge of Perfection and the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias of Geneva. Mr. Hale was reared as a Presbyterian, but in 1884 took his letter from that church at Portland and placed it with the Methodist Church at Geneva.

In 1869 Mr. Hale married Miss Phebe C. McFadden, a native of Ohio and daughter of John and Catherine (Daugherty) McFadden, who settled on a farm in Wells County, Indiana, in 1852. John McFadden was for a period of eight years county auditor of Wells County. Mrs. Hale, who died August 17, 1906, was the mother of the following children: William, married Nellie Clawson and has three children, Helen, Mary and William; Frank, married Daisey Mason and has one daughter, Mrs. Ed Lemike of Fort Wayne; Stella and Winnie are deceased Clara, married J. A. Anderson, now deceased, has two children, Catherine and Joseph; and Fred, married Anna Schaffer and has two children, Cornelius and James.

J. D. French. A well known educator of Wells County is J. D. French, for the past nine years a teacher in the Petroleum public schools, and additionally one of the county's enterprising and successful agriculturists. He was born in Hartford Township, Adams County, Indiana, November 25, 1863, and is a son of William and Sarah (Johns) French, the latter of whom was born in 1828, in Virginia, and is still surviving and bearing well the weight of years.

William French was born in Dearborn County, Indiana, the second son of Joseph French, an early settler in this state. Joseph French reared the following children: Joel, William, John G., Minerva, Sylvia, Mary and Melissa, the eldest being an early teacher in Adams County. William French grew to manhood on his father's farm and then married Sarah Johns, who was an educated woman and a school teacher in Wells County. After marriage William French and wife took possession of the log cabin in which all their children were subsequently born, and they lived on the Adams County farm until 1882, when Mr. French sold that property and purchased a farm in Arkansas. He died shortly after taking possession. His widow remained in Arkansas for one year and then returned to Indiana and bought a farm near Linn Grove. There were five children in the family, namely: Charlotte, who is the wife of William Miller, of Muncie, Indiana; Joseph, who died at the age of thirty years; Melissa, who has been a teacher for twenty-five years; J. D.; and Andrew, who resides with his mother.

J. D. French was reared in Adams County and attended the country schools and was one of the first two graduates. This was in 1882 and he then taught school in Adams County until 1886, when he entered Valparaiso University, from which he was graduated with the degrees of B. S. and A. B., having completed the scientific course in 1890, and the elocutionary in 1891 and the classical course in 1894. Mr. French was then elected superintendent of the Linn Grove schools and remained there two years. Subsequently he taught at Whiting, Indiana, for four years, and at Lisbon, Illinois, for four years, and then took a post grad-

uate course in science in the Illinois Normal University. Mr. French has life certificates in both Illinois and Indiana.

In 1901 Mr. French bought his present farm in Nottingham Township, Wells County, and is paying quite a good deal of attention to breeding high grade stock. In the meanwhile Mr. French has continued in the educational field and, as stated above, has been identified for almost a decade with the Petroleum schools, having taught in every department.

Mr. French was married August 18, 1894, to Miss Sarah McEhinary, who was born in Henderson County, Illinois. Like Professor French, she is a B. S. graduate of Valparaiso University, and prior to her marriage was a popular teacher in her native state. They have three children, namely: Fleming, who is a graduate of the Petroleum High School, later attended the Muncie Normal School and subsequently was graduated from an automobile school in Chicago, is one of the patriotic young men worthy of all honor, now a member of an engineer corps of the United States on duty in France; Helen, who is a graduate of the Petroleum High School, was a student for two years in the State Normal School and taught one term prior to her marriage to Christian Egly; and Winnifred, who is a student in the Petroleum High School.

Mr. French is a member of Linn Grove Lodge, Odd Fellows, of which he is past noble grand, and Mrs. French belongs to the order of the Eastern Star and to the Royal Neighbors. In his views on public questions Mr. French has firm convictions, and in the belief that many of the country's ills are caused by intemperance, he has identified himself with the prohibition party and is an active worker for the cause. The family belongs to the Evangelical Church.

E. W. Dyar, M. D. The medical profession in Wells County, as elsewhere, is found to include the ablest and most scholarly men in every community, and in Dr. E. W. Dyar, the pleasant town of Ossian, Indiana, has a physician and surgeon of this order and a man of both personal and professional standing entitling him to high regard, he being also president of the Farmers State Bank of Ossian.

Doctor Dyar was born in Robinson, Crawford County, Illinois, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Werrich) Dyar, both of whom are deceased, the father passing away in 1881 and the mother in April, 1888.

Fortified with a sound public school education, E. W. Dyar then turned his attention to the study of medicine, subsequently entering the Indiana Medical College, Indianapolis, from which he was graduated with his medical degree in 1904. In the same year he came to Ossian and has been in active practice here ever since, through medical knowledge and surgical skill gaining universal confidence. He devotes his entire time to the labors of his profession and keeps thoroughly abreast with the wonderful advances it is making in modern times.

Dr. Dyar was married September 8, 1901, to Miss Ola M. Hardin, who is a daughter of Thomas and Lyda Hardin, well known residents of Hardinville, Illinois. Dr. and Mrs. Dyar have one son, Edwin W., a school boy of eleven years.

Dr. Dyar gives to politics only the attention that good citizenship demands, voting always with the republican party from principle, but is liberal minded on many public questions. He is a member of Wells County, Indiana State and American Medical societies. In Masonry, he is a member of Ossian Lodge No. 297, F. & A. M., having received the Scottish rite in Fort Wayne Consistory, and is also a member of

Ossian Lodge No. 343, K. of P. Dr. and Mrs. Dyar are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Calvin D. Kunkel, one of the advisory editors of this publication, is a member of a family with perhaps as old and substantial relations and associations with Adams and Wells counties as any other name. The Kunkels have been here for seventy years, and the earlier generations did some of the heavy work of clearing and developing the land and laying the foundation for the present civilization.

He is a son of the late Samuel D. Kunkel, one of the most widely known men of Adams County. He lived to remarkable age and spent nearly seventy years in this part of Indiana. Samuel D. Kunkel was born in York County, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1820, a son of Michael and Catherine (Sentz) Kunkel. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. When Samuel D. was five years of age the family moved to Richland County, Ohio, where Michael Kunkel applied himself to the task of developing a tract of unimproved land. He lived there until his death in about 1850. He was then past seventy years of age. His widow afterward followed some of her children to Indiana and died in Wells County when quite old. Both she and her husband were active members of the Lutheran Church. Their nine children were: Eliza, Mary, Matilda, Diana, Lydia, Rebecca, Nancy, Michael and Samuel D. All of these children are now deceased, except Mrs. Rebecca Wasson, of Wells County.

Samuel D. Kunkel had only the advantages of the subscription schools of Ohio during his youth. He lived at home on the farm, and at the age of twenty-six, in 1846, came to Indiana, driving a wagon. He bought eighty acres of land in Root Township of Adams County. This was then a part of the primeval wilderness. Here he built a log cabin, made it his home for about sixteen years, and developed a good farm on the Pickaway Road, two miles north of the old settlement of Monmouth. He subsequently traded for another place of 160 acres in Root Township, land which had originally been owned by his wife's father. There he continued the work of improvement and cultivation, and in those scenes which witnessed his productive labors he spent his declining years and died May 1, 1915. Had he lived to August of the same year he would have celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday anniversary.

One of the principal reasons which attracted Samuel D. Kunkel to the wilds of Adams County was the presence here of Miss Martha Dorwin, who had come to Indiana with her parents in the preceding year. On June 9, 1846, they were united in marriage. Mrs. Samuel Kunkel was a sister of Thomas T. Dorwin, long prominent as a physician and druggist at Decatur. She was born in Mansfield, Ohio, July 24, 1824, and came to this county with her parents, Calvin T. and Fanny (Bell) Dorwin. Her parents were natives of New York State. They were married in Ohio, where Calvin Dorwin followed the business of teaching and surveying. He also held the office of justice of the peace. On coming to Adams County he acquired 160 acres of land in Root Township in section 21. This land subsequently became the property of Samuel D. Kunkel and is now owned by Mr. Calvin D. Kunkel. Its improvement and cultivation thus represent the labors and enterprise of three generations. Mr. Calvin D. Kunkel now has it nearly all in cultivation except twenty acres of native timber, and some of the building improvements go back to the time of his grandfather Dorwin. Late in life Mr. and Mrs. Dorwin retired to Decatur, but finally returned to the old homestead and lived with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kunkel until they died about 1874. They were splendid old people of the county, and Calvin Dorwin fol-

Harold E. Smith

lowed the fortunes of the whig and republican parties. Of their large family of children Mrs. Samuel Kunkel was the oldest and was the last to pass away. She died February 6, 1902, at the age of seventy-seven. Samuel Kunkel and wife had six children, Willie, Fanny, Dora, Effie, Florence L. and Calvin. Samuel Kunkel was for many years an active member of the English Lutheran Church and in politics a republican. For eight years he filled the office of assessor of Root Township and always showed an intelligent and public spirited interest in the affairs of the county and the people as they had developed year by year from the pioneer stage.

Mr. Calvin D. Kunkel was born in Adams County March 19, 1863. He has spent practically all his life on the land which his grandfather Dorwin first settled and which for many years was owned by his father, Samuel Kunkel, who finally sold it to Calvin. This is one of the most productive farms in Root Township, and Mr. Calvin Kunkel has distinguished himself as a thrifty and progressive business farmer. His place is located on the St. Mary's River three miles from Decatur and adjoining the site of the old and almost forgotten Village of Monmouth. Mr. Kunkel acquired a good education, partly in the local public schools and partly in a normal school at Lebanon, Ohio. For a time he taught school in Washington Township and for five years was connected with the Decatur city schools. Altogether he put in about eighteen years in the school room, and since then has applied himself with results and accomplishments to the business of farming and stock-raising.

On April 17, 1883, Mr. Kunkel married Miss Sarah Ann Pillars. She was born in Root Township December 10, 1862, and was reared and educated here. Her parents were Sampson and Mary J. (Auten) Pillars, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Ohio. They married in Root Township of Adams County and for many years the father followed farming and still lives on his old homestead, being now seventy-seven years of age. Mrs. Kunkel's mother died in 1917.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kunkel, Sherman P. and Florence L. Sherman was born in 1886, was educated in the public schools and the Decatur High School, also in the Fort Wayne Business College, and in recent years has been associated with his father in the management of the farm. He married Fannie McConnell, who was born, reared and educated in Adams County. They have two children, Mary J. and David McC. The daughter Florence is the wife of Dale Moses, of Adams County, and they live on the old Pillars farm in Root Township. They have a young son, James Calvin, now three years of age, and an infant son, Richard Kunkel. All the family are members of the English Lutheran Church. Mr. Kunkel has given strict allegiance to the republican party and has found many opportunities to advance the welfare of his native locality. Farming is a strenuous occupation in modern times, but Mr. Kunkel has shown such efficiency and good management in ordering his business that he has had time to furnish support and encouragement to various matters that are of direct concern to the welfare of the community.

Hon. David E. Smith has received a place of distinction in Adams County by his long work as a lawyer, and at present by the capable discharge of his duties as judge of the Circuit Court. He was elected to this office in November, 1912, and entered upon his duties November 13, 1913. The term of Circuit Judges in Indiana is for six years, so that his present term does not expire until 1919.

Judge Smith was admitted to the Indiana bar in January, 1892. He studied law in the State University of Indiana, and he also had student

associations with two of Indiana's most distinguished lawyers, the late Van Voorhees and Judge Spencer of Indianapolis. Judge Spencer is still in active practice at Indianapolis.

During the twenty-five years since he was admitted to the bar at Decatur Judge Smith has devoted himself untiringly to a large and valuable practice, and from 1896 to 1900 served as prosecuting attorney. In that office he gained much credit for his efficiency as a prosecutor, and laid the foundation of a reputation which preceded his elevation to the bench.

Judge Smith was born in Mercer County, Ohio, in 1867 and was still an infant when his parents came to Adams County, Indiana. He is of English and Scotch-Irish ancestry. His grandfather, Robert Smith, was born in England and married there Miss Maria Drake. Three children were born to them in the old country, Anna, John E. and Mary. One of these daughters is still living in Shelby County, Ohio, at the age of fourscore, the only survivor of those members of the family that crossed the ocean to America. The little family set out on a sailing vessel for the United States, and after many weeks of voyage landed in the United States and came on to Columbiana County, Ohio. Later they settled in Shelby County near Sidney on a farm, where Robert Smith spent his last years. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Mary Wiley, whose maiden name was Crosier. She was of Scotch-Irish lineage and of United Presbyterian stock. Robert Smith became a member of that church faith after his marriage. He was a democrat and so far all his descendants have followed his example politically.

James H. Smith, father of Judge Smith, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 5, 1844, and was the only child of his parents born in this country. It is said that when he was born he was so small he could be put in a quart cup, and yet he grew to strong, vigorous manhood and when the Civil War broke out he was heartily accepted as a volunteer in Company K of the 20th Ohio Infantry. He served four years, was wounded in battle, was with Sherman on the march to the sea and in one engagement was captured and spent some time in Libby Prison before being exchanged. He rejoined his regiment and continued fighting until the end of hostilities. At the close of the war he went back to Shelby County, Ohio, and there he married Hettie Smith. She was born in County Down, Ireland, December 25, 1847, and was of a family of Ulster people and of the Presbyterian faith. She was quite young when she came to America in an old fashioned sailing vessel, her parents locating at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Her father died there and her mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Crozer, afterwards moved to Ohio. Sarah Crozer was of French Huguenot stock, descended from people who had fled from France on account of religious persecution and found homes in northern Ireland. Sarah Crozer spent her last years with her daughter, Mrs. James H. Smith in Adams County, Indiana, and died there at the age of seventy-six. Many of the old time residents recall this kindly and intelligent old lady, who was always devout in her membership in the Presbyterian Church.

James H. Smith and wife were married October 4, 1866. After their marriage they came to live in Shelby County, where he operated a sawmill. They then moved to Mercer County, Ohio, where their first son, Judge Smith, was born at Montezuma. In 1868 the family came to Decatur, Indiana, where James H. Smith was employed at the old Shackley Wheel Works until that business went bankrupt. He then removed to the southern part of Adams County and worked in a sawmill near Geneva, but in 1886 returned to Decatur. He died at Decatur October 2, 1910. His wife passed away on the 27th of December of the same

year. James H. Smith served as justice of the peace in Adams County for about twenty years. He is a man whose name deserves to be spoken with honor and respect by every resident of Adams County. He expressed the best of his life and character by his singular devotion to his invalid wife who was bedridden for thirty years before her death. All the accumulations of his producing years he used to help his life companion, and with all the anxieties and burdens he never showed a face of worry nor complaint and was self sacrificing and devout to the very end. He and his wife were lifelong members of the Presbyterian Church.

Judge Smith had one brother, Robert, who died in infancy, and has one sister, Eva, who is the present wife of D. Hoagland, a house painter living at Boulder, Colorado. Eva has a son, David Edward Orcutt, by her first marriage.

Judge Smith married Miss Ethel Hale, who was born in Wells County, Indiana, but was reared and educated at Decatur. She completed her education at the Terre Haute State Normal School and for several years was a very successful teacher at Decatur. Her father, John D. Hale, was a former county clerk of Adams County and she is a niece of Silas Hale, one of the associate editors of this publication. Judge and Mrs. Smith have six living children, while one son, James H., died in infancy. The family record is: Bayard H., now in the junior class of Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana; Ramona June, aged seventeen, a senior in the Decatur High School; Dorothy M., aged fifteen, also in high school; Gretchen, who is in the last year of the grammar school; Richard A., aged ten years, and a student in the sixth grade; and Robert E., the youngest, who was born in 1914. Judge and Mrs. Smith are Methodists. He is a Knight of Pythias, is a Lodge and Chapter Mason at Decatur and a member of the Council and Knight Templar Commandery at Bluffton and the Mystic Shrine and Consistory of Scottish Rite at Fort Wayne. He is past master of his lodge, serving for twelve years, and is high priest of his chapter and a thirty-third degree mason having received that degree in 1913, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state. Judge Smith is a democrat, and has been delegate to various county, congressional and state conventions of his party.

William A. Kunkel. A great man has somewhere been described as one who is so short-sighted that he cannot see the obstacles which lie between him and his goal. Whether this be true of William A. Kunkel or not, certain it is that he has conquered all obstacles that impeded his path to success and he now ranks as one of the leading business men in Wells County, Indiana. As head of a number of important business concerns Mr. Kunkel has met with such marvelous good fortune that it would truly seem that he possesses the "open sesame" to unlock the doors of success. But success in business is not his only distinction. He is one of those broad-minded, patriotic, forward looking men who in every community of the nation are the real conservators of those community destinies which in the aggregate constitute the national destiny and the policies by which America is exercising its influence and power in the world at large. Mr. Kunkel at the present time is Federal Food Administrator for Wells County. He has given up all his business and is devoting his entire time to this important position, sacrificing all those things of individual interest in order that he might do his whole duty to help make the world safe for democracy.

Like many another big American business man William A. Kunkel was born on a farm. He first saw the light of day January 31, 1868, in

Lancaster Township of Wells County. He is a son of Michael and Mary (Kleinknecht) Kunkel, both natives of Pennsylvania. Michael Kunkel when a young man moved to Ohio, lived on a farm in Crawford County until 1848, and then bought a farm of eighty acres in Adams County, Indiana. A few years later he sold this and acquired a tract of a hundred and twenty acres in section 12, Lancaster Township, Wells County. He was busied with its improvements and made it his home until 1884, when he moved to the city of Bluffton. He died there, an honored and widely esteemed citizen, May 7, 1886. Michael Kunkel married for his first wife Julia Mason, a native of Ohio. She was the mother of four children, Sophia, who died February 15, 1879; Louisa, who died September 20, 1854, and Samuel and Calvin, both living in Lancaster Township, Calvin on the old home farm. For his second wife Michael Kunkel married Mary Ann Kleinknecht. She was born December 3, 1827, daughter of John M. and Anna (Gerhart) Kleinknecht, who located in Lancaster Township of Wells County in 1848. Mr. Kleinknecht died at the home of Michael Kunkel in 1867, and his wife passed away on the old homestead in Lancaster Township in 1859. Both were devout members of the United Brethren Church. The first class of that denomination in Lancaster Township was founded by John M. Kleinknecht, and this eventually resulted in a church organization at Tocsin. Mrs. Mary Ann Kunkel, who was for many years a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died on February 27, 1913. She was the mother of the following children: Martha Ann, deceased; John O.; Lydia Matilda, wife of T. M. Souder; Rebecca J., widow of Henry Masterson; Dora and Theodore H., deceased, and William A.

William A. Kunkel grew up inured to the sturdy discipline of the homestead farm in Lancaster Township, and derived his early educational advantages from district school No. 1. That he was a real country boy is evidenced by the fact that he was never in town when street lamps were lighted until after he was sixteen years of age. He finished his education in the Bluffton High School, graduating with the class of 1886. He essayed to become a merchant, making a start in Ashbauchers Brothers Clothing Store at Bluffton at three dollars a week. He soon saw that he was not in a congenial line of employment. Leaving the store he taught a country school two terms, and later found employment in the office of the resident engineer of the Clover Leaf Railway. Of all his early experiences this was the most important. It gave him a considerable practical knowledge of engineering, and finally he was appointed assistant to the resident engineer. In 1889 he was made deputy surveyor of Wells County and in the following year at the age of twenty-one was elected county surveyor on the democratic ticket. He was re-elected in 1892, A special feature of his administration of the office of county surveyor was a general concerted movement to improve the public highways of Wells County, and much of the success of this movement was due to Mr. Kunkel's careful and technical skill in handling the proposition in its various details.

Mr. Kunkel credits much of his material success to his extensive operations in the oil field. He first became interested in that industry in 1890, but was unable to give it much attention owing to his duties as county surveyor, until 1894. In 1896 he became associated with the Cudahy Oil Company, in charge of the right of way and pipe line department. In May, 1898, he took full charge of the field production and pipe lines of the company and retained that position for one year after the Cudahy interests were purchased by the Standard Oil Company. Since 1900 Mr. Kunkel has been an independent producer in various oil fields in Indiana, Illinois and Oklahoma.

However, his business interests could not all be described under a single head. He is owner of over six hundred acres, constituting several well drained and well improved farms in Wells County, all thoroughly drained by many miles of ditch, improved with the best of farm facilities, including hog pens, silos, electric lights and every other equipment devised by modern agricultural science. Mr. Kunkel is on the board of directors of the Studabaker Bank, the Marion and Bluffton Traction Company, the Bliss Hotel Company, the W. B. Brown Company and other concerns. He is, as these connections and achievements indicate, a man of sound judgment, liberal ideas and progressive methods. Exactness and thoroughness have characterized his life efforts, and what he is and what he has done illustrates what may be accomplished by persistent and painstaking effort.

Politically Mr. Kunkel is a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party. He has served as chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, is at present chairman of the Eighth Congressional District and vice chairman of the State Democratic Committee, and in 1916 was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at St. Louis. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar and thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the Mystic Shrine, and is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He and his family are earnest and active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and all of them are leaders in the social affairs of their home community. June 24, 1891, Mr. Kunkel married Miss Minnie A. Morgan of Kelso, Huntington County, Indiana, daughter of John V. and Mary A. (Rauch) Morgan. Mrs. Kunkel was educated in the Bluffton schools and she and Mr. Kunkel were members of the same graduating class of the high school. She was a popular and successful teacher both in the Bluffton and the Huntington city schools before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Kunkel take proper pride in the developing characters and the early achievements of their three children. The oldest, William A., Jr., graduated from the Bluffton High School with the class of 1911, from the Indiana State University with the degree A. B. in 1916, and spent the following year in Harvard University. He married Miss Lois Steen Nicholson of Wheatland, Knox County, Indiana. Their romance began while they were students at the Indiana State University; they now live at Bluffton. Kenneth, the second son, is a graduate of the Bluffton High School with the class of 1913 and from the State University with the class of 1917, and is now at home doing his bit for the country and the world as responsible manager of an agricultural enterprise of several hundred acres. Marjorie, the only daughter, graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1916 and is now a senior in LaSell Seminary at Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Charles S. Niblick. The name Niblick is practically synonymous with banking at Decatur, and the family have been identified with the oldest bank in the county, the Old Adams County Bank, practically from its beginning. Charles S. Niblick is a son of one of the founders of this institution and is now the bank's president.

The history of the institution goes back to July, 1871, when Joseph D. Nutman and Jesse Niblick established a private bank under the firm name of Niblick & Nutman. They were subsequently associated with Robert Allison and David Studabaker, under the name Niblick, Nutman & Company. Mr. Nutman soon retired and the name was changed to Niblick, Studabaker & Company.

The Adams County Bank was organized in 1874 with a state charter,

and a capital stock of $50,000. The capital was increased in 1882 to $75,000. The first president of the bank was Jesse Niblick and the first vice president, David Studabaker. In 1887 the officers of the bank were David Studabaker, president; Jesse Niblick, vice president; William H. Niblick, cashier; and Edward Ehinger, assistant cashier. The bank home has been a landmark in the Decatur business district and was erected by Mr. Jesse Niblick in 1876, a substantial brick structure at the northwest corner of Second and Monroe streets.

The first charter expired in 1894, and it was renewed, but at that time the bank took the title of The Old Adams County Bank and in 1914 it was rechartered under this name. It is now operating under the third successive charter and it is a significant tribute to the personnel of the men who have presided as officers and directors that not a single dollar of the depositors' money has ever been lost through mismanagement or any neglect. At the present time the capital is $120,000, with surplus of $10,000. It is doubtful if any city of the size in Indiana has a stronger and better conducted institution. Its total resources in 1917 aggregated over $1,200,000, and over $1,000,000 are on deposit.

The first cashier was R. B. Allison. Jesse Niblick remained as an active officer until his death, and William H. Niblick was president of the institution at the time of his death in November, 1896. He was succeeded by R. B. Allison. Charles S. Niblick became an assistant cashier early in the history of the institution, was made cashier in 1896, and on January 1, 1907, succeeded Mr. Allison as president. Mr. Edward X. Ehinger has been cashier since January, 1907, and A. D. Suttles has filled the post of assistant cashier for the past ten years. In addition to the splendid management afforded the bank's affairs, the banking house has also been equipped with every modern facility to protect its funds from fire or burglar.

Mr. Charles S. Niblick was born in the city of Decatur, and grew up there, attending the common and high schools. While still in high school at the age of fourteen he became a bookkeeper in the bank, and has filled every position in the institution with the exception of vice president.

Mr. Niblick is a son of Jesse and Catherine (Closs) Niblick. The Niblick family originated in County Armagh, Ireland, and were Irish. As far back as the record goes they have been industrious, public-spirited citizens, well educated, and letters still preserved of the great-grandfather to his sons, James and Robert, show that this ancestor was a man of more than ordinary learning and of judgment. It has been characteristic of the family to get out and work for anything that would help the community, and this trait is as prominent today as it was in earlier times.

The late Jesse Niblick, father of Charles S., was born in what is now Carroll County, Ohio, August 12, 1826, son of James and Anna (Carter) Niblick. James Niblick and his brother Robert were among the earliest pioneers of Adams County. James was born in Ireland, January 19, 1803, and was brought to America by his parents, growing up in New York and in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He was a cooper by trade, and followed that occupation in Adams County until November, 1836. He settled on a farm in Washington Township several miles from Decatur. In 1869 he moved to Missouri and died a few weeks later at the age of sixty-nine. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and filled several minor offices as a gift of the democratic party. His first wife, Anna Carter, was born in Maryland, and died at the family home near Decatur August 12, 1838. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She had eight children, one of whom was the late Jesse Niblick.

Jesse Niblick was ten years of age when brought to Adams County, and he grew up to manhood here, with the exception of one year spent attending school in Ohio. As a boy he learned the shoemaker's trade, and in 1846 engaged in that line of business for himself. In 1866 he entered general merchandising with John Crawford, under the name Niblick & Crawford, and that business is still continued under the name Niblick & Company at Decatur. He was prominent in many matters that advanced the commercial and civic welfare of Decatur. In 1848 he was elected clerk of Washington Township, and from that year until 1865 was either clerk or trustee, sometimes holding both offices. In the fall of 1865 he was elected treasurer of Adams County and reelected in 1867. For a number of years he was also a trustee or councilman of Decatur. October 16, 1851, he married Miss Catherine Closs, who was born in Germany and was brought to America by her parents, John and Catherine Closs, at an early age. Jesse Niblick and wife had eight children, seven of whom grew up. Their names were: William, John, James K., Mary, Amelia, Charles S. and Daniel. The mother of these children was a member of the Catholic Church and reared her family in the same faith.

On January 8, 1889, Charles S. Niblick married Miss Minnie Waldron. She was reared and educated in Niagara Falls, and was the child of Catholic parents. Mrs. Niblick is a woman of many splendid qualities of heart and mind and a leader in all local affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Niblick have four children: Naomi, born and educated in Decatur, attended school at Fort Wayne, and is now the wife of Perry A. Gandy, a banker and real estate man at Cherubusco, Indiana. James Stewart Niblick was educated in the public schools and in the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he graduated M. D. in May, 1917, and is now finishing his preparation as an interne in a Chicago hospital. In June, 1917, he married Miss Elizabeth McLuckie of Chicago. The two youngest children of Mr. and Mrs. Niblick are Charlotta Z., aged fourteen, and Margaret, aged twelve, both attending the parochial schools. All the family are members of the Catholic Church, in which Mr. Niblick is church secretary. He is also treasurer of the Knights of Columbus of Decatur and is treasurer of the Local Lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being a charter member of both these organizations. Politically he is affiliated with the democratic party.

Edward Green. Adams County has learned the value and appreciates the services of Edward Green through the splendid work he has done in the office of sheriff. He was elected on the democratic ticket to that office in the fall of 1914, beginning his duties on January 1, 1915. In the fall of 1916 the people of the county felt that his work deserved another term and re-elected him. Mr. Green has long been active in county and state politics and for the past ten years has served as a member of the County Central Committee.

His home has been at Decatur since 1893. Among other interests he was chief of police three years and for three years was deputy sheriff. For four years Mr. Green served as a conductor and motorman on the Fort Wayne and Decatur Interurban Electric Railway. Everything that he has turned to have shown him a man of energy and of capacity, and he possesses unusual qualifications for his present work.

Mr. Green was born north of Bucyrus in Crawford County, Ohio, November 2, 1866. When he was eight years old his parents moved to Mercer County, Ohio, but in 1885 came to Adams County, Indiana, locating on a farm in St. Mary's Township. It was on that farm that Edward Green grew to manhood and for the past thirty years has had indeed a busy and responsible career.

His parents were John and Mary (Hildebrand) Green, both natives of Crawford County, Ohio, and of German ancestry. The Hildebrands and Greens were pioneers of Northwestern Ohio, and helped to redeem portions of the wilderness of that country to the uses of civilization. The paternal grandparents were Frederick and Regina Green, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany. Christopher and Margaret Hildebrand were natives of the same kingdom. These two families came to the United States about the same time, locating in Liberty Township of Crawford County. The grandparents spent the rest of their lives in that section. All were members of the Lutheran Church and politically the families were democrats. Sheriff Green's mother died when he was six years of age. He has one sister, Mrs. Amanda Teeple of Vicksburg, Michigan. The father married a second wife, Lucida Gay. By this union there were two children, Ida and Burt. The former lives with her father in Decatur and Burt is clerk in a large department store at Toledo, Ohio. Sheriff Green's father has lived retired for a number of years in Decatur and is now seventy-five years old, his wife being seventy-two.

In 1887 Mr. Edward Green married at Monroeville, Allen County, Miss Amanda Heath, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1863. She lost her parents when she was very young and grew up with relatives and made her own way in the world from the age of twelve. Her father was named Benjamin Heath. Mr. and Mrs. Green have four children, Lawrence, Otto, Edith and Rose. Lawrence now thirty years of age is employed with a produce company at Decatur and by his marriage to Florence Haag has a son Stanley. Otto, aged twenty-eight, was educated in the local public schools and is still a resident of Decatur. He married Silva Dropleman and has two daughters, Mary E. and Martha J. Edith, aged twenty-six, is the wife of Bernard Voglewede of Decatur and they have two children, Edward and Joseph H. Rose is a graduate of the high school and is now the wife of Paul Burgess, a resident of Rockford, Ohio. They have one son, Arthur W.

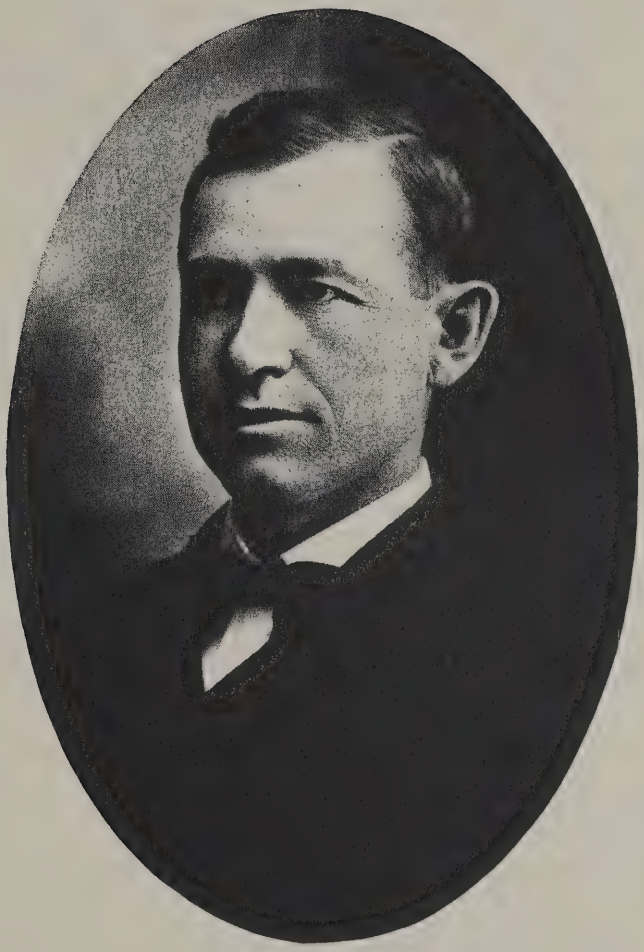
The Green family are members of the Evangelical Church. Fraternally Mr. Green is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Loyal Order of Moose. Since the beginning of the present war Mr. Green has been called upon to perform one of the offices of greatest responsibility in the county, as chairman of the local county conscription board.

Hon. John Wilson Tyndall, editor-in-chief for Adams County of this publication, has been a man of varied interests and affairs in the county for over thirty years.

His chief business at present is with the Krick, Tyndall & Company, manufacturers of drain tile at Decatur. This company was incorporated in 1898. Their plant has an immense output, aggregating in value over $100,000 a year, and the product is shipped all through Northeastern Indiana, Northwestern Ohio and to Michigan. They have facilities for making all kinds of tile anywhere from three inches to twenty-seven inches in diameter. It is one of the leading industries of Decatur and the raw material is obtained from a splendid supply of clay in this immediate vicinity. From forty-five to fifty persons are given employment in the business.

The manufacture of clay tiles was begun here in 1892 by Henry Krick. Mr. Tyndall has been identified with the business since 1896. At that time he had just completed his last term as city engineer of Decatur. His part in the business has been chiefly as sales manager, the office he still holds.

Mr. Tyndall has spent all his life in Adams County and was born in



JOHN W. TYNDALL

Blue Creek Township, October 30, 1861. He grew up and received his early advantages in the schools of Blue Creek, and afterwards attended Valparaiso College, where he took work in the commercial, scientific and classical departments and was graduated in 1885. He paid all his own expenses at college by teaching. He taught his first term at the age of seventeen and for the four years before he reached his majority paid his father $100 annually for his time.

While attending school Mr. Tyndall also took up the study of civil engineering and surveying and in 1886 was nominated and elected to the office of county surveyor. He filled that office continuously for four terms, eight years, and at the same time was city engineer of Decatur and held that office altogether ten years. He was city engineer by appointment two years and by election for two four-year terms. It was while Mr. Tyndall was city engineer that the city waterworks were installed and the first brick paving laid on the streets.

In the fall of 1904 he was elected on the democratic ticket for the State Senate. That year he was one of the two senators of Indiana chosen from the democratic party. The other senator was from the southern part of the state. Mr. Tyndall represented his constituency in Northeastern Indiana with credit and efficiency throughout the two sessions. He has always been active in local politics, and has served as chairman of the Democratic County Committee and in other capacities.

The Tyndall family is of Irish and Welsh ancestry, and was founded in this country by three brothers who came from England, two of them before the Revolutionary war. The one from whom Mr. Tyndall is descended located at Philadelphia soon after the war for independence. The grandfather, Ortalic Tyndall, with two brothers, William and Henry, came to Ohio from Pennsylvania and located in Crawford County. There the boys grew up and William and Henry later moved to Van Wert County, Ohio. Ortalic came in early times to DeKalb County, Indiana. He married a Miss Chilcote. They spent the rest of their lives on their pioneer homestead and that land is still owned by the family, being occupied by a grandson of Ortalic named William Tyndall. Ortalic and wife lived to be about eight years of age. They were active members of the English Lutheran Church and he was a whig in politics.

John C. Tyndall, father of Senator Tyndall, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, in 1827, but grew up in DeKalb County, Indiana, and he married in Van Wert County, Ohio, Miss Rachel Wagers, a native of that county and a daughter of John and Anna (Johnson) Wagers, who were pioneers of Van Wert County, moving there from Harrison County, Ohio. The old Wagers' farm in Van Wert County is still owned by a descendant, Joshua Wagers. John C. Tyndall after his marriage walked with his young bride through the woods, a distance of ten miles, to their new home in Blue Creek Township of Adams County. Mrs. John C. Tyndall died at this home when John W. Tyndall was five years of age. In 1861 John C. Tyndall had gone into the Union army as a member of Company H of the Forty-seventh Infantry, and served nearly two years until discharged for disability. He never recovered his former health and his death on July 2, 1885, was the direct result of illness contracted in the army. He was a prominent democrat, served several times as assessor and for twelve years was justice of the peace. He married for his second wife Athe Ann Campbell, who was of Scotch ancestry. Later they sold the old farm and bought another nearby and it was at this home that John C. Tyndall died. His widow afterwards married John Beatty and moved to Oklahoma, where she died when well advanced in years. John C. Tyndall had children by both wives.

John Wilson Tyndall married at Decatur Miss Mary Heller, who was born in that city in 1870, a daughter of the late Judge Daniel Heller and a sister of Mr. John H. Heller, president of the Decatur Democrat Company. Mrs. Tyndall was the youngest graduate of the Decatur High School, and at the age of sixteen began teaching, a work she continued for several years until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Tyndall have two sons. Daniel Heller Tyndall, born in 1893, is a graduate of the city high school, spent one year in the State University of Ohio and one year in the Indiana State University, and is now associated in business with his father. He married Catherine Egley of Berne, Adams County. The second son, Ralph, was born in June, 1901, and is still carrying on his studies in the high school.

Samuel McCleery. For over sixty-five years the name McCleery has been identified with Wells County, where its associations are most honorable and where it is spoken with the respect due to success in business, public service and duty well performed.

The present Mr. Samuel McCleery is now a retired merchant and carpenter, and is a native of Bluffton, having been born on Wabash Street May 8, 1852. Many of his most active years were spent away from Bluffton, but he has always regarded it as his permanent home. His parents were Samuel and Mary (Forbes) McCleery. His father was born in County Antrim, Ireland, and his birthplace was a stone house known as Iva House. At the age of nineteen he came to the United States, first locating in Philadelphia, where he married a Miss Daugherty, who died in that city. Not long afterwards he came to Wooster in Wayne County, Ohio, and there married Mary Forbes. They were the parents of five children. The daughter Elizabeth was born in Wooster, Ohio, and is the widow of Lafayette Shinn, living at Montpelier, Indiana. The second child, William A. McCleery, was born at Edinburg, Ohio, and is now deceased. In 1849 the McCleery family came to Bluffton, and the first child born here was Charles McCleery in 1850, whose death occurred in 1916. Samuel McCleery, Sr., died at Bluffton in 1893. His second wife passed away in August, 1863.

Samuel McCleery, Sr., on coming to Bluffton was employed by the firm of Studabaker & Winters, and then started a shop of his own as a boot and shoe maker. He built up quite a business and had several men working under him. In 1856 he moved to the old town of Murray in Wells County, and lived in a log house there. He also conducted a tavern at Murray and built a shoe store there in 1859. In 1860, returning to Bluffton, he resumed his trade as shoemaker and in 1861 he erected the store room now occupied by W. H. Merriman on North Main Street, at the corner of Wabash Street. At one time he served as town marshal of Bluffton.

Samuel McCleery, Jr., grew up at Bluffton and remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age. In the meantime he had benefited by the instruction of the public schools. Concerning his early education it is interesting to recall the fact that he attended a school in the house where he now lives and which then stood at the northwest corner of West Market and Johnson streets. He was also a student in the first high school established at Bluffton.

Mr. McCleery learned the shoemakers' trade and followed it for eight years, but then took up work as a carpenter. He was employed in the bridge department of the Clover Leaf Railway in 1879, 1880 and 1881 and was then engaged in building bridges with the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway for a year. In 1882 he went with the Wabash Railroad, and on May 26, 1886, he joined the Santa Fe Railway Com-

pany at Wichita, Kansas, and was in the bridge building department of that western railroad until 1900. From 1900 to 1903 he was connected with the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company and was superintendent of bridges and building over the entire road, a distance of over 500 miles. In October, 1903, Mr. McCleery returned to Bluffton and for several years concerned himself chiefly with looking after and repairing his property. In January, 1910, he engaged in the grocery business, but soon sold out and is now retired. Mr. McCleery has never married. He owns sixty acres of land at the old town of Murray, and has several properties in Bluffton, including a business room at the corner of Main and Wabash streets.

He is an active member of the Presbyterian Church, is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, and also with the Royal Arch Chapter and Council and is a past sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men. Politically he has always cast his vote as a stanch democrat.

Noah Frauhiger has a very extended personal and business acquaintance all over Adams and Wells counties, largely as a result of his business and profession as an auctioneer. Mr. Frauhiger has been especially active in the business of buying and dealing in livestock, and is now a resident of Bluffton, with home at 424 West Lancaster Street.

He was born in Adams County, Indiana, December 23, 1882, a son of Philip and Bertha (Meyer) Frauhiger. His father was a native of Darke County, Ohio, and his mother of Wells County, Indiana.

When Noah Frauhiger was eight years of age his parents removed to Lancaster Township in Wells County, and there he grew up to the sturdy discipline of the farm, with advantages supplied by the district schools. He stayed at home with his father, helping to clear up the farm, and the land was all in cultivation when he left home at the age of twenty-four. Removing to Preble in Adams County, Mr. Frauhiger conducted a meat market there for a year and a half and also engaged in the buying and shipping of stock. It was while there that he took up the profession of auctioneering, and his success in this line has brought him many engagements all over Northeastern Indiana and he has cried sales for the past ten years. In 1911 Mr. Frauhiger came to Bluffton, and he now gives all his attention to auctioneering and the buying of horses.

He married Esta Yarger, a granddaughter of Samuel Yarger. They have six children, three sons and three daughters, named Herman, Ervin, Kenneth, Velma, Lucile and an infant. Mr. Frauhiger is a democrat in politics but has neither sought nor held office.

Thomas H. Koontz graduated from the Bluffton High School thirty years ago, took up the trade of carpenter, and now for many years has been one of the leading contractors and builders of Wells County. He is also widely known over the county because of his former service as city clerk.

Mr. Koontz was born at Columbia City, Indiana, September 5, 1869, a son of O. P. and Catherine S. (Bitner) Koontz. His father was born at Canton, Ohio, August 8, 1835, and grew up in his native state and received a liberal education, having attended Mount Union College at Alliance. In 1854, he came to Whitley, Indiana, locating at South Whitley. He was living there when the war broke out and in 1861 he enlisted in Company E of the Forty-fourth Indiana Infantry, and saw active service until the close of the struggle, coming out with the rank of captain of his company. He then returned to South Whitley, and

soon afterwards was elected sheriff of the county, filling that position four years. He was a very successful educator, having taught in the schools of Whitley County seven years, part of the time being principal of the school at Larwill and at Coesse. In March, 1878, he removed to Bluffton and for two years taught in the Central school building of that city. Later he entered merchandising and finally became a contractor, a line of business which he followed until his death in 1908. He was a democrat in politics, a member of the Baptist Church and a charter member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. He and his wife were married in Whitley County in 1858. Of their children two are still living, Morris B. and Thomas H. The former is a carpenter at Kansas City, Missouri.

Thomas H. Koontz was nine years of age when the family removed to Bluffton and he grew up there, attending the public schools. He graduated from high school with the class of 1886 and at once began learning the carpenter's trade. He used that trade as a basis for an independent business career as a building contractor, and has handled many important contracts all over Wells County.

September 18, 1899, Mr. Koontz married Miss May Crewell, daughter of Eli Crewell. They have one daughter, Catherine H., born September 28, 1905.

Mr. Koontz is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being worshipful master of the lodge, and he and his wife are both active in Crescent Chapter No. 48, Order of the Eastern Star, he serving as worthy patron and his wife as worthy matron at the present writing. Politically Mr. Koontz has been very active in the democratic party. He was elected and filled the office of city clerk at Bluffton four years, from 1898 to 1902.

Grant Pyle. Diligent and ever alert for his chance of advancement, Grant Pyle has progressed steadily along the road to success until he is recognized today as one of the foremost business men of Bluffton. Here he is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, who honor him for his ability and for his fair and straightforward career. He is district manager of the Farmers National Life Insurance Company, his headquarters being at Bluffton.

Grant Pyle was born on a farm in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, the date of his nativity being July 3, 1867. He is a son of Robert and Mary A. (Clinger) Pyle, the former of whom was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1831, and the latter in Ohio, September 10, 1836. Mrs. Pyle accompanied her parents from the Buckeye State to Jay County, Indiana, and there was solemnized her marriage. In 1863 Mr. and Mrs. Pyle located on a farm in section 27 of Rock Creek Township, Wells County, and part of their land now forms the Town of Rockford. They cleared and improved their homestead and continued to reside thereon until 1912, when they retired from active work and settled in the city of Bluffton. Here he died February 22, 1915, and she was summoned to eternal rest July 16, 1917. They were both devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and helped organize the church of that denomination at Rockford. After their arrival in Bluffton they affiliated with the First Methodist Episcopal Church, where they gained many warm friends, by whom their demise is uniformly mourned. Politically Mr. Pyle was a stalwart republican. Mr. and Mrs. Pyle became the parents of two sons and three daughters: Emma is the wife of W. A. Redding of Muncie, Indiana; Grant is the immediate subject of this review; Huldah M. married G. B. Johnson,

of Bluffton; Melissa A. is the wife of Robert Dickey, of Rock Creek Township; and C. P.

Grant Pyle passed his boyhood and youth on the old homestead farm in Rock Creek Township, attending the public schools during the winter months and working on the farm during the spring and summer. He remained at home with his parents until he had reached his majority. His preliminary educational training was supplemented by a course of two years in the Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, now Taylor University at Upland, Indiana. He initiated his business career as a traveling salesman for the St. Louis Range Company, covering Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Two years later he severed his connection with that concern and entered the employ of the Alpaugh-Dover Company, of Chicago, as superintendent of agencies, his territory being the eastern and New England states and Kentucky. He was with the latter company for three years, during part of which time he traveled as far west as Oklahoma and Wisconsin. He then engaged as salesman for the W. H. Hood Company and the Tobacco Company of Fort Wayne, remaining with those firms for seven years. April 16, 1914, he engaged in the life insurance business as district manager of the Farmers National Life Insurance Company, his territory comprising the counties of Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Randolph and Delaware. His main office is in Bluffton and he stands in the front rank as an enterprising insurance writer. Mr. Pyle is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, in which he is past master; Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons; Bluffton Council No. 63; and Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templars. He is likewise affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been a member of that organization since July 4, 1892. He is an enthusiastic republican and is an active politician. He was nominated for the office of county recorder in 1894, and came within 200 votes of being elected. He is a stockholder in the Alpaugh-Dover Company and the Farmers National Life Insurance Company, both of Chicago.

In the year 1893 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Pyle to Miss Ida M. Cassell, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, January 1, 1873, and who was educated in the public schools of her native place. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Pyle: Edna, Russell, Naomi, Mildred, Harved, Kenneth and Merriam. Russell, second oldest child, is a graduate of the Bluffton High School and is now a successful teacher in Wells County. The entire family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to whose good works they are liberal contributors.

W. H. Berling is secretary, treasurer and general manager of the Berling-Moltz Company at Bluffton. This is one of the large and important industries that give Bluffton its importance and prosperity, and the company also owns plants at Montpelier and Warren, Indiana.

Mr. Berling was born at Decatur, Indiana, October 16, 1886, a son of G. and Helen (Hartman) Berling. His father was a native of Germany and his mother of Allentown, Pennsylvania. G. Berling came to Decatur when a young man, and was in business there until his death. The widowed mother is still living at Decatur. There were four daughters and three sons in the family. Joseph J., of Decatur; Mary C., unmarried; William H.; Edward, of Decatur; Agnes, a graduate of the Decatur High School and a teacher; Genevieve, a graduate of Sacred Heart Acadamy at Yonkers, New York, and now secretary of the Martin Klepper Tanning Company of Decatur; and Matilda, a graduate of

Sacred Heart Academy at Fort Wayne. Matilda, Mary, Joseph J. and Edward are proprietors of the H. Berling Company at Decatur.

William H. Berling grew up in his native city, attended the Catholic parochial schools there, and at the death of his father, at the age of sixteen, he joined his brother Joseph J. in taking over the produce business which their parents had built up. He continued actively associated in this line at Decatur until he removed to Bluffton August 9, 1909.

June 20, 1911, Mr. Berling married Edna E. Ehinger, daughter of E. X. Ehinger, cashier of the old Adams County Bank. Mrs. Berling was educated in the parochial schools of Decatur. They have one child, William H., Jr., born June 27, 1912. Both Mr. and Mrs. Berling are active members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Bluffton. He was affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Decatur. Politically he casts his vote as a republican.

JONAS S. COVERDALE, M. D. From the point of continuous service the oldest physician in Adams County is Dr. Jonas S. Coverdale of Decatur. He comes of a family of physicians, his father before him having practiced medicine in this section of Indiana, while one of his sons enjoys a large practice as a specialist at Decatur.

Dr. Coverdale took his preparatory work in medicine at Cincinnati and began practice in Adams County in 1872. Eight years later he graduated from the Fort Wayne Medical College and has always kept abreast of the advancing ideas and methods of his profession. He has built up a large practice and has ridden and driven over practically every highway leading out of Decatur even beyond the boundaries of the county. Doctor Coverdale is an active member of the state and county medical societies, and has been president of the latter society.

He was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, February 23, 1849, but when four and a half years of age his parents removed to Allen County, Indiana, and somewhat later to Monmouth, in Adams County, a few miles north of Decatur. In that community he grew up and acquired his early education in the public schools.

Doctor Coverdale is of old Scotch ancestry. The Coverdales have been in America for four or five generations. His grandfather Elias Coverdale was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, and died there in early life. His widow married a second time and also spent her years in Muskingum County.

Dr. Lemuel N. Coverdale, father of Jonas S., was born in Muskingum County October 3, 1812, and that date attests the early settlement of the family in Ohio. He was one of the three sons of his father, being the youngest in age. He grew up and married Mary Ann Shaver. She was born in Muskingum County March 25, 1810, her parents being early settlers there, coming probably from Virginia. Her mother lived to be eighty-nine and her father even older.

Dr. Lemuel Coverdale after his marriage began practice in Muskingum county and along with his work as a medical practitioner he also did duties as a lay minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife was a very devout member of the same church. All of their eleven children were born in Muskingum County. Two of these children, a son and daughter, were twins, the son dying in infancy while all the others grew up, two sons and eight daughters, and all but three married. Five of them are still living, including two maiden sisters and two widows. After the family removed to Adams County Dr. Lemuel Coverdale continued his work for many years as a physician and lay preacher. For the last eight years he lived retired and passed away in 1889. His

wife died in 1887. They are buried side by side in the Decatur cemetery. In matters of politics the senior Doctor Coverdale followed the fortunes of the whig, abolitionist and republican parties.

In Adams County May 20, 1873, Dr. Jonas Coverdale married a neighbor girl, Catherine E. Patterson. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio, August 4 ,1854, and when a child removed to Adams County, Indiana, with her parents, Thomas and Margaret (Shamp) Patterson, who were of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Her parents spent the rest of their lives on the farm in Adams County, having located there during the '50s. Her father cleared away a portion of the wilderness to make this farm and was a man of considerable substance and importance in his community. He and his wife were active members of the Presbyterian Church. In the Patterson family were the following children: Etta, Van R., J. Monroe, George W., John, Emma, Zale, Mrs. Coverdale and Margaret, four of whom are still living. All were married and one is now a widow and one a widower.

The youngest of Doctor Coverdale's children was May, who was well educated in the local high school and also in the Woman's College at Oxford, Ohio. She died eight months after her marriage to John Christian. Nelson Thomas Clark Coverdale, the older son of Doctor Coverdale, was graduated from the local high school, from the Fort Wayne International Business College, and is now a successful real estate man at Nashville, Tennessee. He married May L. Hughes, an Adams County girl, and their children are Graydon, born February 25, 1896, and a graduate of the Nashville High School in 1917; Donald Clair, born April 21, 1900; Jonas Scott, born January 30, 1902; and Ruth May, born October 9, 1907.

Dr. Earl G. Coverdale, the other son of Dr. Jonas S., was born November 11, 1879. He graduated from the Decatur High School and in June, 1902, received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Rush Medical College of Chicago. After two years of general practice he entered the Chicago Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Institute and received a diploma from that school. Since then he has been practicing along these lines and has built up a very fine special practice, being associated as a partner with his father. Doctor Earl married at Decatur Estella Ellis. She was born in Indiana and received her education in the public schools of Redkey in Jay County. She is the mother of one daughter, Mary Madaline, born June 21, 1914.

The family are active in the Presbyterian Church. Doctor Coverdale is a Scottish Rite and a Royal Arch Chapter Mason, being affiliated with the Scottish Rite bodies at Fort Wayne and with Mizpah Temple of the Mystic Shrine in that city. He received his master mason's degrees in Masonry in January, 1873, not long after he began medical practice in Decatur. When the law was passed requiring counties to have a board of health Doctor Coverdale was elected to the first board and was its secretary. In 1894 he was elected to the city council on the republican ticket and served till 1898.

George D. Snyder. The career of George D. Snyder, of Bluffton, has been in many ways a typical American success. Coming to Indiana a poor boy, working on farms and in stores, he proved his capacity and fidelity in small things and was promoted to increasing responsibilities, finally getting into business for himself and now for many years has enjoyed an enviable position in business and civic affairs. At the present time Mr. Snyder is district agent at Bluffton for the People's Life Insurance Company at Frankfort, Indiana. He is also a stockholder in the company.

Mr. Snyder was born at Mount Etna in Berks County, Pennsylvania, January 4, 1863, son of Aaron and Lavina (Lebo) Snyder. His parents spent all their lives in Berks County. His father was a man of good education, taught in public schools, and later practiced law and became well known both in the law and in democratic politics. He was a member of the German Reformed Church. There were thirteen children in the family, ten sons and three daughters. Ten of the children are still living, Emma, Robert, George D., Keturah, Matthew, Kate, Carrie, J. L., William and Lester. George's brother J. L. also lives at Bluffton.

A member of a large family of children, George D. Snyder early acquired a sense of serious responsibility. His father was moderately well-to-do in financial circumstances but with such a large family it devolved upon the children as early as possible to become self supporting. George D. Snyder lived at Mount Etna until he was seventeen years of age. He attended public school as opportunity offered, and at the age of nine began contributing to the support of the family. He worked in a general store and at other lines of employment. On coming to Indiana he found work in a livery barn, was there three months, then went out to Washington County, Kansas, where he found something more to his liking in a dry goods store.

Mr. Snyder came to Bluffton, Indiana, in 1881 and entered the dry goods store of that old pioneer merchant, S. M. Dailey. After three and a half years he transferred his services to another well known old time merchant, G. F. McFarren. Mr. Snyder began his employment at Bluffton at wages of $3.50 a week. When he left Mr. McFarren he was getting $1,750 a year. He gave up his employment in the McFarren store to enter the boot and shoe business for himself, and conducted a very successful store at Bluffton for about ten years. In the meantime he had bought the Bluffton shoe factory. The weight of business responsibilities finally undermined his health and he spent two years recuperating in Asheville, North Carolina. On leaving Bluffton he had divided his stock with a partner. He also had a brief experience in the jewelry business and later resumed the boot and shoe trade. For a short time Mr. Snyder lived with his family in California. On returning to Bluffton he entered the life insurance business, and in that line has had a very marked success.

June 12, 1887, he married Miss Ida A. Sturgeon. She was born in Jefferson Township of Wells County, the only child of S. H. and Harriett (Caston) Sturgeon. Mrs. Snyder lived on the old farm with her parents until she was ten years of age. She was liberally educated, attending both the grammar and high schools at Ossian, and she also graduated in the scientific course at Valparaiso University with the degree Bachelor of Science. She took up teaching, being employed in Noble County, Indiana, and two years in the schools of Ossian. Both Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are active members of the Baptist Church and Mrs. Snyder teaches the woman's class in the Sunday school. Mr. Snyder is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife have owned several good properties in Bluffton and their prosperity is a source of satisfaction not only to themselves but to their many friends. Mr. Snyder has always been a leader in temperance work, and some of the early meetings to promote temperance were held in his store. He and his wife had two children: Raymond O., born September 12, 1890, was educated in the grammar and high schools of Bluffton and married Miss Pearl Shardelow, of Dayton, Ohio. Ruephell, the daughter, was born November 16, 1892, was educated in the local schools and in a business college, and is now the wife of Thomas E. Miller.

JOHN W. SMITH, an active business man at Bluffton for over thirty-five years, has had a very strenuous career. At the age of seven he left home, was bound out, never had opportunities to acquire an education, and has known a life of hard work and many vicissitudes of experience. He is an old soldier of the Civil war, having gone into the army when little more than a boy and was still under age when he came out.

Mr. Smith was born in Holmes County, Ohio, July 18, 1847, a son of Elas and Catherine (Williams) Smith. His father was a native of Holmes County, Ohio, where he married, and lived there until the latter part of 1847, when he moved to Van Wert County, in that state. In 1850 he came to Allen County, Indiana, settling near Monroeville. There he bought a tract of wild land, cleared away the woods and in the course of time had a good property. He began life poor and only by the hardest work and much sacrifice was he able to obtain a modest degree of prosperity. Both he and his wife died on the old farm. Elias Smith was a stanch democrat and quite active in politics. He was also interested in religious matters and was well informed on the Bible. The parents had eleven children, all of whom reached maturity except one and four are still living, namely: John W.; Jesse Smith, a business man of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Sarah J., wife of Abe Whitwright, of Decatur, Indiana; and Charles Smith, in the livery business at Columbus City, Indiana.

John W. Smith left home at the age of seven and attended school not more than three months all his life. He was bound out to an uncle and remained with his uncle until 1863, working hard for his board and clothes.

October 12, 1863, at the age of sixteen, Mr. Smith enlisted from Adams County in Company C of the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry. He was with the Fourteenth Army Corps and under the command of that gallant General Thomas fought at the battles of Franklin and Nashville and in many other engagements. He was in the army until September, 1865, when he was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Though constantly on duty, often exposed to danger, he escaped all wounds.

After leaving the army Mr. Smith returned to his uncle's home at Decatur, and subsequently moved to a farm in Allen County, where he cleared most of the land. He then married Nancy E. Martin. She was born and reared in Hardin County, Ohio, but came to Adams County, Indiana, where she met and married her husband. For two years after his marriage Mr. Smith farmed and then went to Decatur, where he used his team in helping grade the line of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway. Then for two years he was with the Shockley & Wheel Company at Decatur, and later was employed in cleaning up the Adams County courthouse. He cleaned it from basement to roof, making a thorough job of the entire brick work. He remained in the county seat of Adams County and was in the draying business for five or six years. He also acquired property there, but sold out and removed to Bluffton, where he engaged in hauling logs and general teaming until 1881, when he went into the dray business which he has built up to large proportions. He now has a large business, employing a number of horses and vehicles, and well merits all the prosperity and success that have come to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, namely: Harry E., of Battle Creek, Michigan; Lewis W., of Battle Creek; Homer, who lives with his father and is employed at Bluffton; Clara A., wife of Harry Graddick, of Muncie, Indiana; and Mary, who is married and lives in Bluffton.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Smith is a charter member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics a republican, he has been quite active in local affairs, has used his influence effectively to support all worthy movements, but has never sought official preferment for himself.

ERIC D. WALSER. An enterprising and progressive citizen of Wells County is Eric D. Walser, who maintains his home and business headquarters at Bluffton, where he is proprietor of the West End Meat Market, in addition to which he is the owner of considerable real estate in this city.

Mr. Walser was born on a farm in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 26, 1865. His parents, Reynold and Cynthia Ann (Anderson) Walser, are both deceased. The mother died in 1884, and he passed away June 7, 1913. To them were born nine children, six of whom are living in 1917. The baby of the family, Eric D. Walser, grew to a sturdy manhood and as a boy he attended the district schools of Nottingham Township. At the age of seventeen years he procured a teacher's license and he was engaged in pedagogy for the ensuing ten years, teaching in the winter time and attending sessions of the county normal school at Bluffton in the summers. In 1893 he and his brother, Dr. J. A. Walser, purchased a general store at Lynn Grove, Indiana, conducting the same with indifferent success for a period of three years, at the end of which Mr. Walser came to Bluffton. Here he entered a meat market and learned the trade of butcher. He worked in one shop for fourteen years, and June 4, 1905, he opened his present market, which has been conducted in a strictly high-class manner ever since. He owns his up-to-date meat market.

August 11, 1889, Mr. Walser married Miss Elizabeth Bauman, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and who came to Wells County, Indiana, when she was but two years of age. She was educated in the common schools of this county and has resided here nearly all her life. To Mr. and Mrs. Walser were born three children: Zella was graduated in the Bluffton High School and is the wife of Ralph Staver, of Bluffton; Ralph A., a graduate of the Bluffton High School, was killed in the Kingsland wreck, September 21, 1910; and Howard C., a member of the graduating class of 1917 in the Bluffton High School, is now a student in Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio. The entire family are devoted members of the First Reformed church, in which Mr. Walser has been an elder since January 1, 1917.

Mr. Walser is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is past grand master, and he is a charter member of the Ben Hur Lodge. In politics, while he does not seek or desire office of any description, he is a stalwart democrat and is well known as a loyal and patriotic citizen. His success in life is due entirely to his own well applied efforts. He is progressive in every sense of the word and is a citizen of whom any community can well be proud.

C. H. MEAD, M. D. A physician and surgeon of thorough ability and high attainments now practicing at Bluffton, where he has had his home for nearly ten years, Dr. Mead is a graduate of the University of Michigan both in the literary and medical courses, and is not only a hard worker but one of the cultured citizens of the community.

Dr. Mead was born on a farm in Michigan January 11, 1882, a son of C. H. and Elizabeth (Osborne) Mead. His parents are substantial farmers and still living on their old homestead in Michigan. Dr. Mead

grew up in the country districts, attended the district schools, and from them entered the Mount Pleasant High School, where he was graduated and also took the regular course of the Central Michigan Normal School at Mount Pleasant. It was through the avenue of teaching that he largely paid his way through medical college. For two years he was principal of the Shepherd High School. Entering the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he was in both the academic and medical departments until he graduated with the degrees of A. B. and M. D. in June, 1908. In July of the same year he came to Bluffton, and his work has brought him a steadily growing practice. He has served as health officer of the city and is an active member of the County and State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Mead married Jeannette Shephard, of Marshall, Michigan. She was a graduate of the Marshall High School and the Central Michigan Normal, and taught school for several years before her marriage. They have two children: Clarence S., born August 27, 1910, and Elizabeth Eileen, born January 2, 1916. Dr. and Mrs. Mead are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, A. F. & A. M.; Bluffton Chapter No. 95, R. A. M.; Bluffton Council No. 63, R. & S. M., and Bluffton Commandery No. 36, K. T. In politics he is a republican.

Adolph Leimgruber. Education and financial assistance are very important factors in achieving success in the business world of today, where every faculty must be brought into play, but they are not the main elements. Persistency and determination figure much more prominently, and a man possessed of these qualities is bound to win a fair amount of success. Adolph Leimgruber, whose name forms the caption for this article, is self-educated and during the latter years of his life he has climbed to a high place on the ladder of achievement. For the past two years he has been a resident of Bluffton, where he is engaged most profitably in the manufacture and distribution of ice, his plant being known as the Bluffton Pure Ice Company.

Adolph Leimgruber was born in Perry County, Indiana, December 30, 1864, and he is a son of Sebastian and Julia Ann Leimgruber, both natives of Switzerland. As a boy Mr. Leimgruber attended the public schools of Tell City and he resided in that place until his marriage in 1889, when he located at Greensburg, Indiana, where he was successfully engaged in the ice business for a period of nineteen years. In 1908 he moved to Attica, Indiana, there erecting an ice plant, which he disposed of four years later. He then settled in London, Ohio, whence he came to Bluffton in November, 1915. Here he purchased the site of the old washing-machine factory from the Mike Long estate and on the same erected a substantial and up-to-date building for the manufacture of ice. The company, of which he is head, is known as the Bluffton Pure Ice Company and it is more than a local enterprise, as ice is shipped to many of the towns and cities adjacent to Bluffton. The plant runs day and night and has an output of twenty-five tons in twenty-four hours. During the short time he has been a resident of Bluffton Mr. Leimgruber has gained a reputation for square and straightforward business methods and his enterprise is a welcome adjunct to the other industries of this section.

In 1889, in Tell City, Indiana, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Leimgruber to Miss Anna Fromer, who was born in Ripley County, Indiana, and educated in the local parochial schools. Seven children were born of this union, one of whom, a son, is deceased. Following are

the names of the other children: Herman, Lillian, August, Lawrence, Christena and Geraldine.

Mr. Leimgruber believes in the principles set forth by the republican party, but in voting maintains an independent attitude, preferring to give his support to the man rather than to the party. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Catholic Knights of America and the Greensburg Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He and his wife are devout communicants of the Catholic Church, in which faith they have reared their children. Mr. Leimgruber is a man of marked enterprise and his success in life is due to his own well directed endeavors. He is warm hearted and generous in disposition, is fond of home life and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

Asa W. Brown, M. D. Since he entered upon his professional practice at Bluffton eleven years ago Dr. Brown has not only applied his time and energies to the work of building up a large private clientage, but has also made his profession a source of benefit and service to the community and has done much in the way of preventive medicine and in safeguarding the general health and sanitary condition of his city and county.

Dr. Brown was born on a farm in Rock Creek Township of Wells County September 18, 1877, a son of Asa S. and Christina (Decker) Brown. His father was born February 27, 1848, in Clinton County, Ohio, and when a boy accompanied his parents to Indiana. They made the journey in the old fashioned way of wagon and team, traveling over rough roads and through many miles of unbroken forest. The Brown family settled in Rock Creek Township of Huntington County, and in that district Asa S. Brown was reared and acquired his education in the common schools. He made the best of his opportunities to obtain an education and subsequently taught school very successfully for about ten years in Wells, Huntington and Grant counties. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Rock Creek Township of Wells County and continued prosperously engaged in this calling until he retired and removed to Bluffton where he became interested in the oil industry. He died at Bluffton April 19, 1908. He was a very active member of the Baptist Church. Politically he was a republican, and though Wells County is largely democratic he was once elected to the office of county commissioner, serving three years. He was the father of twelve children, and seven are still living: Dr. Asa W.; Thurlow W., who lives near Fort Benton in Montana; Agoma P., wife of J. A. Johnston, present sheriff of Wells County; Arthur W., of Montana; Victor E., who is engaged in the glove manufacturing business at Battle Creek, Michigan; Nellie, who is unmarried, and Everett, who married Mamie Anderson, of Bluffton.

Dr. Asa W. Brown had the old farm as his early environment and the district schools of Rock Creek Township afforded him his early training. He afterwards attended normal schools and for a year and a half was a teacher. From the teaching vocation he entered the Medical College of Indianapolis, where he spent four years and graduated M. D. In June, 1906, Dr. Brown came to Bluffton and has since practiced medicine all over this part of the county. He has served as president and secretary of the Wells County Medical Society and is a member of the State and American Associations. For the past seven years Dr. Brown has been county health officer, and prior to that was city health officer.

In 1904 he married Miss Eva D. Shepherd, who was born in Nottingham Township of Wells County, but was reared and received her educa-

tion in the schools of Harrison Township. Dr. and Mrs. Brown have two children: Asa G., born April 8, 1907, and Robert S., born March 17, 1910. Mrs. Brown is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while the doctor affiliates with the Christian denomination. He is identified with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is medical examiner of the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a republican and a few years ago he came within seventeen votes of being elected county coroner.

William S. Smith is a native of Bluffton, a son of former Senator J. H. C. Smith of Wells County, and has been steadily making his mark in business affairs for the past thirty years. He is now proprietor of the McFarren Clothing Company of Bluffton, in addition to various other interests.

Mr. Smith was born at Bluffton January 31, 1868. His mother, Arlie L. (Wisner) Smith, was a native of Wells County, and his father, J. H. C. Smith, was born in Rock Creek Township of this county August 9, 1842. He has long been one of the prominent members of the Wells County bar. He represented Huntington and Wells counties in the State Senate four years during the latter '80s. Senator and Mrs. Smith have two sons living, William S. and Merl W., the latter of Hartford City, Indiana.

William S. Smith was reared in Bluffton, educated in the common schools and is a graduate of the rather noted class of 1886 from the high school. That class contained thirty-four members, nineteen girls and fifteen boys, and all are still living except Frank Cummings. After graduating from high school Mr. Smith went to work in the local drug stores, was there one year, was with J. H. Heintz two years, and then entered the Root & Company store, the leading dry goods house of northern Indiana, at Fort Wayne. He was with them for four years and returning to Bluffton entered the employ of Mr. G. F. McFarren. He learned all the details of the business and somewhat later he bought out the Tribolet Clothing and Men's Furnishing Store and, associated with W. R. Barr, they conducted this establishment five years. It was then sold to the S. Bender Dry Goods Company. For a time Mr. Smith was with the Leader Company and then returned to G. F. McFarren and is now proprietor of the clothing department of that handsome and widely known mercantile house of Bluffton. Mr. Smith also owns stock in the Wells County Bank and is a stockholder in the Abbott Corporation Company, automobile manufacturers of Cleveland.

June 13, 1893, he married Miss Winnie McFarren, who graduated from the same high school class as her husband. They have three sons: George H. Smith, who graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1912 and in the electrical engineering course from Purdue University with the class of 1916. He is now connected with the National Division of the General Electric Company of Cleveland. The second son, Wendell S. Smith, is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, while the youngest, Hubert, is still a high school student. The family are members of the Baptist Church, in which Mr. Smith is a deacon. He is a Knight Templar and thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner, and in politics is a democrat.

William R. Barr. Bluffton has been a center of trade and business for over three quarters of a century, and among those connected with the business, civic, social and religious life of the community William R. Barr is prominently numbered. The Leader Company, of which he is vice president and manager, is now and for some years past has been sup-

plying a large part of the reliable merchandise distributed not only in Bluffton but throughout Wells County. That, however, is only one of Mr. Barr's active interests in the city.

By nativity he belongs to the city of Fort Wayne, where he was born April 27, 1874, a son of Robert and Lettie (Bennett) Barr. His mother was a daughter of Robert C. and Harriet (Deam) Bennett. Robert Barr, the father, was born in 1848, at Paisley, Scotland, where the famous shawls come from. When a small child he accompanied his mother to America, the first location being at Halifax and later moving to Rochester, New York, where Robert was reared and where he had a common school education. He learned his trade in machine shops in Rochester and from there came to Fort Wayne, Indiana, working in the Pennsylvania Railway shops and in 1880 came to Bluffton, where he entered the service of George W. Grimes in the latter's foundry and machine shop on the south side of Washington Street near the railroad. He was connected with that industry until the latter part of 1915 and was active in building up the industry as a manufactory of boilers, engines, mill machinery, architectural iron work and other products. He was a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which he served as noble grand, and in politics was a republican and filled the office of councilman one term. He is now living with his son William R. Barr. There were four children in the family, and the three now living are: William R.; Fred H., who is manager of a chain of 5 and 10-cent stores in which his brother William is also interested, his home being at Celina, Ohio; and Alice, a graduate of the Bluffton High School and the wife of James H. Lepper, who lives at Owensboro, Kentucky, where he is now active in the 5 and 10-cent business.

William R. Barr was six years of age when the family moved to Bluffton. Here he attended the public and high schools. At the age of seventeen he went to Rochester, New York, spending a year and a half employed with a party of civil engineers and at the same time continued his education by attending night school. Returning to Bluffton, Mr. Barr entered the service of G. F. McFarren, one of the oldest and best known merchants of Bluffton. He was with him until 1898, then, with William S. Smith, he bought the John W. Tribolet clothing store. At the end of five years Mr. Barr bought the interests of Mr. Smith, and then merged the store with the firm of Bender, Walmer & Barr. Five years later Mr. Walmer retired, turning over his interest to the other two partners.

The Leader Company was incorporated in 1908. Its present officers are: Samuel Bender, president; William R. Barr, vice president; Herbert H. Bender, secretary and treasurer, and the board of directors are Samuel Bender, Mr. Barr and Herbert H. Bender.

Mr. Barr is also one of the directors of the W. B. Brown Company and is a member of the executive committee and director of the M. & R. Traction Company. He is also one of the directors of the Elm Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Barr is a York and Scottish Rite Mason, past master of his Masonic lodge and past eminent commander of the Knights Templar and also belongs to the Mystic Shrine. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and in politics is a republican.

Mr. Barr married Margaret Walling, of one of the old and well known families of Muncie, Indiana. She is a graduate of the Muncie High School. Her parents were Mark and Mary E. (Gilbert) Walling. Mr. and Mrs. Barr have an adopted daughter, Lois Barr, born August 17, 1904. Mrs. Barr was well educated in literature and music, and for

several years taught music in the Bluffton public schools and has had active charge of the music of the Baptist Church for a number of years. Both are active members of this church and Mr. Barr is a teacher of a class enrolling about 250 members in the Sunday school.

Louis Severin, M. D. For over fifteen years Doctor Severin has practiced medicine and surgery at Bluffton. His professional standards are high, his work has met with increasing appreciation, and he has made for himself an honored place in the community and has rendered a service that cannot be estimated in any material rewards.

Dr. Severin was born at Aurora in Dearborn County, Indiana, September 19, 1870, a son of Julius and Catherine (Horn) Severin. His parents were both natives of Germany, where they were reared, and they came to America when young people, both about 1847. The mother first located at Charleston, South Carolina, later lived at Norfolk, Virginia, and they became acquainted and married in Ohio. After their marriage they lived in Galion, Ohio, and finally established their home at Aurora in the southern part of the state. The father was a coppersmith by trade, and for a number of years was a structural ironworker. In their family were eight children, six of whom are still living.

Dr. Severin spent his boyhood days in Aurora, attending the grammar and high school there, and graduating in the high school course in 1887. For several years he followed mechanical lines of employment, but quite early in life determined that his real career should be in the medical profession. In 1895 he began the study of medicine, entering the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, from which he graduated with the well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1899. During his junior year he was elected interne in the German Hospital of Cincinnati, and that gave him a splendid opportunity to apply the theories of text books and lectures by actual service. He was an interne fourteen months.

In the summer of 1899 Doctor Severin came to Bluffton, but in January following moved to Preble, Indiana. In March, 1901, he returned to Bluffton and has since carried on his professional work in the city and surrounding country. He served as city and county health officer for about nine years, and is a member in good standing of both the county and state medical societies.

In June, 1903, he married Miss Carrie Plessinger. She is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, and both are working members of the Baptist Church. Doctor Severin has been superintendent of its Sunday school for the past two years. They have two children: Martha C., born in 1908; and Mary J., born in 1912. Doctor Severin is a republican and quite active in party affairs. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, with Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and with the Knights of the Maccabees.

Mrs. Severin is a daughter of Col. James B. and Martha (Kellogg) Plessinger. Her father was long one of the most prominent citizens of Wells County and deserves an individual record at this point. He was born in Greenville, Ohio, September 7, 1837, a son of John and Elizabeth (Thompson) Plessinger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and of German parentage, and the latter a native of Chillicothe, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The Plessingers were pioneers in Wells County, locating at Bluffton in 1842, where John Plessinger died in 1875 and and his wife in June, 1879. James B. Plessinger was one of a family of six children. He left the public schools at the age of fourteen, worked as clerk in a local store for six years, and in 1861 left his place behind the counter and enlisted in the Union army as a musician. He was

assigned to duty in Company A of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry and during his service of two years was promoted to principal musician of the regiment. He saw much active service, especially during the great campaigns for the opening of the Mississippi River. While on duty he was taken ill and after several months in a hospital was discharged March 10, 1863. He returned to Bluffton, resumed work with his old employer, but in January, 1865, engaged in the grocery business. In 1876 he was called from his private business to the office of sheriff, having been elected on the democratic ticket. He was re-elected in 1878. He was a prominent Odd Fellow, filled the principal offices in both the subordinate and encampment degrees and represented both in the state lodges. He was a commander of Lewis Daily Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Bluffton remembers him as one of the most active organizers of the Bluffton Fire Department in 1879, and for seven years he was chief engineer of the department. Colonel Plessinger died while temporarily a resident at Decatur, Indiana. On May 13, 1864, he married Martha Kellogg, daughter of Nelson and Rachel (Wiley) Kellogg. She is still living, and has the distinction of being the oldest resident of Bluffton, where she was born and where her entire life has been spent.

Edwin S. Walmer. The men who succeed in any enterprise in life, the generals who win their spurs on the field of battle, the financiers who amass wealth—are the men who have confidence in themselves and the courage of their convictions. There is a time in every man's life when he reaches the conclusion that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide and that though the world is full of good, no good thing comes to him without self-reliance and the power to gain results. The man who trusts himself and who plans well his part on the stage of life is a success. A strong and sterling character is like an acrostic—read it forward or backward or across—it still spells the same thing. The business career of Edwin S. Walmer, one of the foremost dry-goods merchants of Bluffton, is an ample illustration of what persistency and determination, coupled with ambition and the ability to work, can accomplish.

A native of the City of Bluffton, Edwin S. Walmer was born November 5, 1868, and he is a son of Henry S. and Catherine (Krill) Walmer, both natives of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The father was a shoemaker by trade and he came to Wells County, Indiana, about 1848, entering the employ of Matthew Winters as foreman in his shoe shop. Subsequently he purchased this shop, employing as many as six operators, and later he owned a shop on East Market Street. April 1, 1880, he disposed of his shoe shop and located on a farm, part of which is now within the corporate limits of Bluffton. He continued to live on the farm and devoted his attention to diversified agriculture until his demise, June 6, 1900. He was a republican in politics and while he did not participate actively in local affairs still he manifested a deep and sincere interest in all matters projected for the good of the general welfare. Mrs. Walmer was summoned to the life eternal in 1901. She and her husband were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, in 1917, as follows: Amanda is the wife of W. T. Shaffer, of Muncie, Indiana; Catherine is the wife of D. M. Karns, of Bluffton; Jennie married H. E. Rowley, of Anderson, Indiana; D. A. Walmer resides in Bluffton; Ella is the wife of G. T. Hartley, of Muncie; Clara is the wife of H. L. Troutman, of Indianapolis, Indiana; William H. is a farmer in Harrison Township, Wells County; Edwin S.; Barbara was the wife of A. J. Tribolet at the time of her death in 1914; and Sarah died at the age of ten years.

Edwin S. Walmer was a lad of eleven years of age when his parents located on the farm. He attended the public schools of the locality and at the age of thirteen years entered the Bluffton High School, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1886. This class consisted of thirty-four pupils, the largest graduating class until 1910. August 1, 1886, he accepted a position with D. A. Walmer & Company of Montpelier, Indiana, at $6 per week. Out of his salary he saved $50 during the first year. He remained with that firm for four years, at the end of which he engaged in the livery business, selling out his share in that enterprise to his partner at the end of six months. Returning to Bluffton, he obtained a position with the Leader store and remained in the employ of that concern for sixteen years, during ten of which he was salesman and manager. He then entered into a partnership alliance with S. Bender, under the firm name of Bender & Walmer, dry-goods merchants, and a short time afterward this concern took over the clothing firm of Smith & Barr, and the name was changed to Bender, Walmer & Barr. This company was continued for five years but August 27, 1907, Mr. Walmer disposed of his interest to Bender & Barr for the tidy sum of $26,000. March 5, 1908, he purchased a two-thirds interest in the People's Store (E. S. Walmer & Company), his partner in this enterprise being J. R. Bishop. In 1913 a third partner, W. C. McBride, was admitted and the store was run under this triple alliance, as it were, until August, 1916, when Mr. McBride retired, and in the following month Mr. Walmer also took over the share owned by Mr. Bishop. The People's Store is one of the largest and finest concerns of its kind in Wells County and has a very extensive patronage. Mr. Walmer was interested in the Bluffton Steam Laundry and ran the same for two years. He also has extensive real estate interests in Bluffton and he is a stockholder in the Studabaker Bank and in the Union Savings & Trust Company, in the latter of which he is a member of the board of directors.

July 13, 1892, Mr. Walmer married Miss Isca Wentz, a daughter of W. H. and Owega (White) Wentz. Mrs. Walmer was born in Montpelier, Indiana, September 23, 1870, and she was educated in the Bluffton public and high schools. One son has been born to this union, namely, Hillard W., the date of whose nativity is August 30, 1897. He was graduated in the Bluffton High School and for a year and a half was a student in the Indiana State University. He then entered Marion Institute, at Marion, Alabama, and after four months there passed the examination and is now midshipman of the United States Army at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

Mr. Walmer is a valued and appreciative member of Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in politics he is a stalwart republican. Mr. Walmer is a man of fine mentality and broad human sympathy. He thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. He is always courteous, kindly and affable and those who know him personally accord him the highest esteem. His life has been exemplary in all respects and he supports those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

Charles W. Decker, a former county surveyor of Wells County, has been active in the automobile business at Bluffton since retiring from office. Mr. Decker is a native of Wells County and represents one of the old and prominent families here.

His grandfather, Isaac Decker, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1820, son of Christin and Elizabeth (Albert) Decker, natives

of the same state. When a young man he went to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he married Miss Langle, then removed to Jay County, Indiana, and on his return to Fairfield County his wife died. In Montgomery County, Ohio, he married Miss Elizabeth Houser, daughter of Henry Houser. Following that he was again in Jay County, Indiana, but failing health sent him back to Montgomery County, Ohio, and in 1853 he came to Rock Creek Township of Wells County, where his father had previously bought land. Still later he removed to Huntington County, where he cleared up a wild tract of 160 acres, but after eighteen months returned to his father's farm in Wells County. Only nine acres of that land had been cleared from the sovereign wilderness and it was the scene of his prosperous activities as a farmer until his death in 1868, at the age of forty-eight. His wife survived him until 1872. They had ten children. Isaac Decker was an early democrat in politics.

His son Edward Decker, father of Charles W. Decker, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, July 19, 1846, and was seven years of age when his parents came to Wells County, where he lived ever afterwards save for the brief time spent in Huntington County. He was educated in the district schools of Rock Creek Township, and after his father's death bought the old Decker farm and became one of the well-to-do and influential agriculturists of the county. He lived a long and useful life, terminated by his death at the age of seventy in December, 1916. He died in Hope Hospital at Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1869 he married Miss Rebecca L. Houtz, daughter of John Houtz, of Rock Creek Township. They were the parents of seven sons and two daughters, including Charles W., John F., Rufus L., Otto R., Devilla N., Orpha, Jesse and Lydia E. The latter is now the wife of William Hoover of Huntington County, Indiana. Edward Decker was an active member of the Emmanuel Reformed Church of Rock Creek Township.

Mr. Charles W. Decker was born on his father's farm in Rock Creek Township March 5, 1877, and in that locality, endeared to the family by so many associations, he grew to manhood. He was educated in the district schools and in Valparaiso Normal, and for three years was a teacher in Rock Creek Township. Of his six brothers four also taught in the same schools. At the age of eighteen Mr. Decker removed to Bluffton and became deputy surveyor of Wells County, but resigned that position to complete his education. In November, 1910, he was elected county surveyor and filled that office with great credit and efficiency a full term of four years, completing his work on December 31, 1914. The following year he took the local agency of the Overland automobile, and has done much to distribute that deservedly popular and high class car.

August 13, 1899, Mr. Decker married Lillie M. McAfee, daughter of John McAfee, of Rock Creek Township. The McAfees are another old and well known family of Wells County. Mrs. Decker is a graduate of the common schools of Rock Creek Township, having attended the same school as her husband and in the same grade. They have three children: Verdi, who graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1917; Ruth, aged six years; and Charles W., Jr., now two years old. Mrs. Decker is a member of the Lutheran Church at St. Paul, while her daughter is active in the Reformed Church. Mr. Decker has followed the political faith of his ancestors and is a sturdy democrat. He is now serving his second term as treasurer of the Bluffton School Board, and other interests require considerable of his time. He is secretary and general manager of the Bluffton Free Street Fair and is a stockholder in the Banner Publishing Company.

FRED J. TANGEMAN. The history of a nation is nothing more than a history of the individuals comprising it, and as they are characterized by loftier or lower ideals, actuated by the spirit of ambition or indifference, so it is with a state, county or town. Success along any line of endeavor would never be properly appreciated if it came with a single effort and unaccompanied by some hardships, for it is the knocks and bruises in life that makes success taste so sweet. The failures accentuate the successes, thus making recollection of the former as dear as those of the latter for having been the stepping-stones to achievement. The career of Fred J. Tangeman, secretary and treasurer of the Union Savings & Trust Company at Bluffton, but accentuates the fact that success is bound to come to those who join brains with ambition and are willing to work.

A native of the Buckeye State of the Union, Mr. Tangeman was born in Mercer County, Ohio, near Coldwater, August 12, 1869, and he is a son of Benjamin and Mary (Albers) Tangeman, both of whom were born in Mercer County, Ohio, where she died in 1874. The father was identified with farming and contract and building operations for a number of years and he is now living in retirement in Coldwater, Ohio. He was twice married and the maiden name of his second wife is Kallmeyer.

Fred J. Tangeman was five years of age when he was bereft of his mother and about that time his father located in the Town of Coldwater, where he married again. Mr. Tangeman was cared for by his stepmother and he attended the public schools until he reached his twelfth year. He then entered upon an apprenticeship to learn the trade of cigar-maker. The man under whose tutelage he acquired that art located in Bluffton, Indiana, in 1883, and two years later Mr. Tangeman also came here. He followed his trade in this city until 1897, when he went to Bedford, Indiana, there spending four months, and thence went to Portland, this state. He remained in the latter place for seven months, and was there at the time of the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. He manifested his patriotism by enlistment in Company E, 160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he was promoted from private to corporal, to sergeant, to commissary sergeant and finally to lieutenant, February 22, 1899, at which time the regiment was ordered to Matanzas, Cuba. The men were mustered out of service April 26, 1899, at Savannah, Georgia. Mr. Tangeman then returned to Bluffton and here followed his trade until the fall of 1899, when he bought the S. P. Raush cigar store and engaged in business on his own account. He conducted this store until September, 1902, when he was elected city treasurer, in which office he served with marked efficiency until September, 1906. In July of that year the Union Savings & Trust Company was organized and Mr. Tangeman was elected its secretary and treasurer. L. C. Davenport was elected president and served as such and as a member of the bank's board of directors until his death in 1917, and W. A. Kunkel was chosen vice president. In 1917 the board of this substantial financial institution comprises the following prominent citizens: D. A. Walmer, Ezra Levenson, W. L. Keiger, S. E. Hitchcock, H. R. Swisher and E. S. Walmer.

In January, 1901, Mr. Tangeman was united in marriage to Miss Jane Osborne, a native of Rush County, Indiana. Mrs. Tangeman was orphaned when a mere child and she was reared in the home of an uncle. She attended the public schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Tangeman have one son, Frederick O., whose birth occurred October 29, 1906, and who is now a pupil in the grades. They are communicants of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Tangeman is a prominent fraternity man, having the following connections: Past exalted ruler in Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and represented the same in the Supreme Lodge at Denver in 1914; is past chancellor in Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and during a furlough while serving in the army he attended the Grand Lodge of Indiana at Indianapolis, being the only soldier present; he is one of the trustees of Bluffton Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose; and is clerk of Bluffton Lodge No. 11367, Modern Woodmen of America, of which he is one of the charter members. In politics he is a democrat, and he served on the city school board for three years, two years as secretary and one year as treasurer. It is self-evident from the foregoing data that Mr. Tangeman is a prominent and influential citizen in Bluffton. Shrewd and enterprising in business, he possesses the initiative that helps one to forge ahead. His loyal support of every measure tending to improve the general welfare and his willingness to serve in any capacity that is required of him by the community or state makes him specially valuable as a loyal and patriotic citizen.

Harry R. Swisher. The career of Harry R. Swisher is a noble illustration of what independence, self-faith and persistency can accomplish in America. Mr. Swisher is a self-made man in the most significant sense of the word for no one helped him in a financial way and he is self educated. As a young man he was strong, vigorous and self-reliant. He trusted in his own ability and did things single handed and alone. Today he stands supreme as a successful business man and a loyal and public spirited citizen. Most of his attention has been devoted to the lumber business and at the present time he is treasurer and general manager of the F. L. Mercer Lumber Company, at Bluffton, Indiana.

Harry R. Swisher was born in Union City, Ohio, July 21, 1863, a son of Alex and Ibbie (Wiley) Swisher. The mother was born in Randolph County, Indiana, in 1843, and she was summoned to the life eternal in Union City, Ohio, in April, 1917. Alex Swisher is a native of Darke County, Ohio, and in his youth he learned the trade of miller. He located in Union City, Ohio, as a young man, and there was proprietor of a mill, which he leased, during the greater part of his active business career. He is now living retired in that city, where was solemnized his marriage and where his wife is buried. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Swisher.

After a somewhat limited education in the public schools of Randolph County, Indiana, Harry R. Swisher entered the employ of the Witheam Anderson Lumber Company, in Union City and he was with that concern until his fifteenth year. He then became a clerk in a shoe store and continued as such for a period of fifteen years, during which time he also learned the trade of painter. In 1893 he engaged in the lumber business at Swayzee, Indiana, and after remaining in that city for three years disposed of his yard to the Grant Lumber Company. Then entering the employ of the Winters Lumber Company at Elwood, Indiana, he remained there for a year and a half. In February, 1898, he came to Bluffton and purchased the E. H. Montgomery Lumber Company, and there he has since maintained his home and business headquarters. He is now treasurer and general manager of the F. L. Mercer Lumber Company, the other officers of which are W. H. Campbell, president, and W. S. Brannum, secretary.

May 16, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Swisher to Miss Winnie I. Smith, a native of Union City, Indiana, where she was graduated in the high school. Mr. and Mrs. Swisher have three chil-

dren, concerning whom the following brief data are here incorporated: Fred S. a graduate of the Bluffton High School, and who was a student in the Indiana University for one year. He is general manager of the H. A. Bennett Heading Company, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He married Catherine Bennett, a daughter of H. A. Bennett. Nellie Marie, after completing the prescribed course in the Bluffton High School, attended Oberlin University, Wisconsin Normal at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and she devoted some time to the study of music. George A. is a graduate of the Bluffton High School and for two years was a student in Purdue University. He is now connected with the H. A. Bennett Heading Company at Portland, Arkansas.

Fraternally Mr. Swisher affiliates with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons; Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons; Bluffton Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters; Bluffton Commandery Knights Templar No. 38; and Mizpah Temple at Fort Wayne, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He has achieved the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite branch of Masonry, and with his wife and daughter he is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is likewise a member of Union City Lodge No. 152, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he is past grand, and of Randolph Encampment No. 87 of that order. He is past exalted ruler in Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a republican in his political convictions and has served as a member of the county executive committee of that party. Mr. Swisher is a man of splendid executive ability, of unquestioned integrity and he commands the confidence and esteem of his fellow men in every walk of life. In religious matters he and his family are members of the Baptist Church.

Walter L. Hadley is one of the leading veterinary surgeons of Adams and Wells counties, and has been in active practice at Bluffton for the past five years.

He was born in Hendricks County, Indiana, February 23, 1875, son of John B. and Martha J. (Richardson) Hadley. He was a small child when his father died and his mother afterwards married again and the family removed to Clinton County, Indiana. In that county Walter L. Hadley grew up on a farm in Forest Township, getting his education in the district schools and in the Forest High School. After leaving high school he worked on the farm, and then followed his inclination and talent to make a profession of veterinary surgery. He graduated from the Indiana Veterinary College in 1912, and since June of that year has been in active practice at Bluffton.

Doctor Hadley had two brothers, one of whom is a doctor of medicine at Frankfort, Indiana. A half brother, Dr. H. N. Oliphant, is a physician at the National Military Home of Marion, Indiana. Another half brother, Herman E. Oliphant, is a professor in the law department of the University of Chicago and is now in the service of the United States Government at Washington looking after certain phases of foreign and domestic commerce. Still another brother, John T., graduated from the Moody Bible School in 1917 and is an evangelistic singer.

Doctor Hadley married Josephine Sunier of Bluffton, daughter of Jesse Sunier of this city. Doctor Hadley is a democrat in politics.

Dal Wandel is a citizen too well known in Wells County to require any extensive introduction. People know him especially through his service as a former clerk of the Wells Circuit Court. At the present time he is proprietor of the Central Grocery at Bluffton.

Mr. Wandel was born January 1, 1869, in the State of Illinois, but

when a year old his parents returned to Bluffton and here practically all his life has been spent. He was given the Christian name of Adalgo, but by that name he would hardly be known, since everyone speaks of him as "Dal" Wandel. He was reared in Bluffton and was educated in the grammar and high schools of that city.

Mr. Wandel is a son of J. W. and Littia (White) Wandel. His grandfather, John Wandel, was a pioneer citizen of Wells County, a resident of the Village of Zanesville, and served as the county treasurer from 1855 to 1859, dying during his second term in the office. J. W. Wandel was a gallant soldier of the Union army, being a member of Company I of the 22nd Indiana Infantry. He served all through the war and was with Sherman's army in its march from Atlanta to the sea.

Dal Wandel was the only child of his parents. After leaving public school he took up the trade of barber, and followed it actively for about twenty years. In the meantime he began operating in the Indiana oil fields, and his judgment was sufficient to direct his investments and operations in a highly successful degree. Mr. Wandel has always been a democrat, and only once entered politics as a candidate for office. In the democratic primaries when he was an aspirant for the office of clerk of Circuit Court he had four competitors. His popularity enabled him to outdistance all his rivals, and he lacked only twenty-one votes of having a clear majority of the entire field. In the general election which followed he had no opposition, and his offical performance was as creditable as his best friends expected it would be. After leaving that office he was given an appointment by the Secretary of State as head of the mailing department, a position he filled until December, 1916, when he returned to Bluffton and bought the Central Grocery north of the Court House and is now doing a flourishing business at that stand.

Mr. Wandel married Nellie M. Clayton, who was educated in the grammar and high schools of Bluffton and is a daughter of John Clayton. They have one daughter, Florence, born August 6, 1894. She graduated from the Bluffton High School and spent two years in the State University of Indiana. Mr. Wandel is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and in the latter organization was captain of the Uniform Rank Company.

George F. Markley, of the firm of Markley & Son at Bluffton, is one of a number of successful men of the Markley name who from pioneer times to the present have been identified with Wells County.

The history of his branch of the Markley family in Wells County goes back to his grandfather, Gabriel Markley, who was born in Maryland January 11, 1814, a son of Jonathan Markley, a native of the same state. When he was three years of age his parents moved to Pennsylvania, and later to Madison County, Ohio. In 1836 Gabriel Markley married Hannah Tuttle, who was born in Athens County, Ohio, March 30, 1818, a daughter of Solomon Tuttle. In 1837 Gabriel Markley and wife came to Wells County, Indiana, which was then completely covered with the woods and all the wilderness nature. He had a farm in section 18 of Harrison Township, along the Wabash River. Only four white families were to be found in that part of the county. He and his wife endured many privations, but their outlook was promising, and in the course of time Gabriel Markley was the owner of some 1,100 acres of land. It is said that his property when he first arrived in Wells County consisted only of a horse and a cow, and the latter died soon after they came to the county. Gabriel Markley and wife had twelve children.

They were active members of the Christian Church. Gabriel Markley died June 12, 1873, and his wife on March 30, 1883.

Jonathan Markley, father of the Bluffton merchant, was born in Wells County June 4, 1838, soon after his parents arrived in this wilderness. For many years he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest living white person born in Wells County. He had to be satisfied with such education as was obtainable in the old subscription schools taught in a log cabin. On December 21, 1858, he married Miss Catherine Sturgis, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Brasier) Sturgis. Following his marriage he worked a farm near the old homestead for several years, continued farming at Newville until the spring of 1882, when he returned to Harrison Township and acquired 160 acres of land which he brought under a high state of cultivation. The years brought him prosperity and the honor paid to a useful citizen, and death came to him in his seventy-ninth year on April 28, 1917. He and his wife were active members of the Six Mile Christian Church and in politics he was a prohibitionist. He and his wife had thirteen children, and eight of the sons and two of the daughters are still living.

One of them was George F. Markley, who was born in Harrison Township of Wells County February 5, 1861. The farm, rural environment and country schools offered the chief experiences of George F. Markley during his boyhood. After work in the County Normal he was qualified as a teacher and he continued teaching in the winter and farming in the summer until he came to Bluffton and engaged in the grocery business in 1893. His store was on Market Street for two years, until it was burned out, and he then moved to Main Street and in 1899 came to his present location at 222 West Market. In 1902 the firm became Markley & Son, and they have long been among the leading purveyors of high class provisions in Bluffton.

Mr. Markley married for his first wife Ellen Arnold, who died in 1888. Their three children were Jessie, Vernon C. and Augusta. They were all educated in the Bluffton public schools. In 1893 Mr. Markley married Lillian Gettle, who was born in Bluffton, daughter of Sarah Gettle. Mr. and Mrs. Markley have four children: Harold, who is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, is married and is now connected with the Leader Company Store at Bluffton; Paul, a graduate of the high school, who has enlisted in the army and is now serving in the United States at Fort Dupont, Delaware; Edna is the wife of Claude Farling; Herman completed the course of the Bluffton High School in 1917.

The family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. Markley is a member of its official board. Fraternally he is identified with Bluffton Lodge No. 114 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is a past noble grand of the lodge, and belongs to both the Encampment and Canton of Odd Fellowship. Mr. Markley is an active democrat, but his chief public service has been rendered to the public schools of Bluffton. For twelve years he was a member of the board, three years its secretary, was treasurer six years, and president three years.

Charles Kaltwasser. The name of Charles Kaltwasser is significant of all that is honorable and good in connection with the mercantile activities of Bluffton, and it is not difficult to understand the esteem he enjoys in the community when it is recalled that for thirty-three consecutive years he has catered to the demands of the community with high class fresh meats and general market supplies. Mr. Kaltwasser learned his trade when a boy in Germany and his success is largely due

to the fact that he kept strictly in one line and has performed the service for which he is best fitted.

He was born in Germany May 13, 1854, and grew up in one of the German cities. As is customary in the Fatherland, he was a student in the common schools until the age of fourteen and then began learning a trade. He served as a butcher's apprentice three years and as a journeyman traveled and worked in Berlin and in many other large cities. He was also called upon to serve in the regular army and put in twenty-six months with the German cavalry. On leaving the army he worked at his trade in Luxemberg for a couple of months, then by way of Antwerp proceeded to Liverpool and thence a vessel carried him across the Atlantic to Boston, Massachusetts. He has been a resident of the United States and a loyal American citizen since 1877. His first location was at Wooster, Ohio, where he followed his trade 2½ years, and in 1881 located at Bluffton. He first worked as a journeyman in this city but since 1884 has been in business for himself and all that time on West Market Street. He owns the building in which his shop is located and also owns a good substantial home on East Washington Street.

Mr. Kaltwasser married for his first wife Fannie Bowman, a native of Wayne County, Ohio. She became the mother of three children, but the only one now living is William of Bluffton. For his second wife Mr. Kaltwasser married Lizzie Bentz, who was born in Adams County, Indiana. Mr. Kaltwasser is an active member of the Reformed Church, is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Encampment No. 141. He also belongs to the Tribe of Ben Hur, being a charter member. Politically he is a democrat, contenting himself merely with casting his vote.

Samuel M. Snider, head of the firm of Snider Brothers, plumbing and heating, at Bluffton, educated himself for the law, practiced several years, but has found his chief field of effort in practical business affairs, in which he has made a decided success.

Mr. Snider was born in Jefferson Township of Allen County, Indiana, February 27, 1877, but most of his life has been spent in Adams or Wells counties. His parents were James M. and Sarah C. (Weldy) Snider. James M. Snider was born in Ohio September 25, 1852, and was brought to Allen County, Indiana, in 1854. He grew up there, attending the common schools. In 1876 he married Miss Weldy in Adams County. She was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 11, 1852, and her parents were early settlers of Adams County, Indiana. After their marriage James M. Snider and wife settled on the old Snider farm, but some years later came to Adams County and bought the old Weldy farm in 1885. That was their home until 1896, when they acquired the old Samuel Mills farm in Lancaster Township, a mile east of the Eagleville school house, and they still reside there, having surrounded themselves with comforts sufficient for all their future needs. They are active members of the Church of the Brethren at Pleasantdale in Adams County. James M. Snider is a republican, and has been an ardent supporter of that party for many years. There were six children, five sons and one daughter: Samuel M.; William K., who married Myrtle Howley, now deceased, and he follows the business of shooting oil wells at Tulsa, Oklahoma; Miriam M., wife of E. E. Rupright of Adams County, Indiana; Seth W., who graduated from the Theological Seminary at Upland, Indiana, but is now associated with his brother as junior member of the firm Snider Brothers at Bluffton, his wife's maiden name being Mabel Owens; George A. Snider, who graduated from the Bluffton Business College and in the classical course from Taylor University, is now a Methodist

ORLO E. LESH

Episcopal minister in the Geneva Circuit; Philip S. Snider is unmarried and a farmer at home.

Samuel M. Snider was five years of age when brought to Adams County, and he acquired his early education in the old Peterson school house there. In early manhood he entered the office of the late J. J. Todd and applied himself to his law studies until admitted to the bar before the Wells Circuit Court in 1899. He at once located in Ossian, and had a considerable law practice there for five years. He gave up law to engage in farming in Adams County for a couple of years, following which he came to Bluffton and was employed by a local sawmilling concern for two years. From that he entered the plumbing and heating business, and after about four years alone, associated with him his brother Seth in 1915. They have the reputation of being thoroughly reliable men in their business and carry a complete line of goods and also furnish a prompt and thoroughly competent service.

Mr. Snider married, December 25, 1896, Miss Mina May Beery. She was born in Darke County, Ohio, but was educated in the schools of Indiana. They have had three children: Lloyd D., born July 29, 1898, and now employed by the G. R. Kinney Shoe Company of Dayton, Ohio; Martha F., who was born June 26, 1901, and died August 3, 1914; and James H., born January 29, 1905, and still attending the local schools of Bluffton.

The family are members of the Reformed Church. Mr. Snider is a deacon in the church. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and is a past chancellor of Ossian Lodge No. 343 of the same order. He has done all he could to promote the interests of the republican party and of public spirited movements at Bluffton. Not long ago he was defeated by a narrow margin for the office of county recorder.

Orlo Ervin Lesh, supervising editor of this publication for Wells County, is thoroughly imbued with the life and affairs of Wells County, where he has spent practically all his years since birth. His family associations with the county go back sixty or seventy years and his interest in the county and its people has led him to cherish and store up in his mind many stories of pioneer things he has heard from the lips of his own people and of other early settlers. Mr. Lesh is one of the scholarly men of Wells County, has for a number of years been prominent in educational affairs, and is now serving as county treasurer.

He was born in Rock Creek Township of Wells County December 1, 1872, a son of James and Sarah (Staver) Lesh. He is of old Pennsylvania stock, of German Lutheran ancestry, and the family first became acquainted with the new and somewhat crude district of Rock Creek Township along in the late '40s. James Lesh was born in Rock Creek Township, had only the advantages of the rural schools, and applied himself with great industry to his business as a farmer. He was a democrat in politics and a member of the Lutheran Church. His wife, Sarah Staver, who was born near Dayton, Ohio, was brought when a small child to Indiana by her parents, Jonathan Staver and wife. Her childhood was not free from cares and responsibilities much in advance of her years and she assumed an important part in her father's household.

Orlo E. Lesh received most of his early training in the common schools, and while living on the home farm. For a short time he attended the Central Normal College preparatory for teaching, and did his first work in that profession in 1891 at the age of eighteen. From that time forward he was continuously engaged in the school-

room until 1904. At that date he moved to Bluffton to become deputy county auditor of Wells County, but in 1907 resigned to again take up teaching and became instructor of history in the Bluffton public schools for five years. He resigned this position to become deputy county treasurer in 1913, and was still in that office when in 1916 he was nominated and elected county treasurer, beginning his official term on January 1, 1917. Mr. Lesh was elected as a democrat and has been one of the influential workers in that party for a number of years. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and for three years was chairman of the Board of Associated Charities of Bluffton.

Among the various fraternities Mr. Lesh has concentrated his chief enthusiasm upon the Knights of Pythias. He became a member of the local Bluffton lodge in 1904, has filled all the chairs and is now president of the county organization of Knights of Pythias lodges in Wells County, and is also district deputy grand chancellor of the Ninth District of Indiana.

On July 31, 1912, at Bluffton he married Margaret J. Stine, daughter of David and Mary Ann Stine. Her father spent three years in the Union army during the Civil war as a fifer, and subsequently followed his trade as a blacksmith at Ossian. Mrs. Lesh is a graduate of the Ossian High School and later graduated from the Indiana State Normal. She taught in Muncie, Indianapolis and Bluffton until her marriage in 1912. In 1917 she became Mr. Lesh's chief deputy in the treasurer's office.

Col. W. L. Kiger has been known in Bluffton business circles for many years, is manager of the Williamson Hardware Company of Bluffton, and has always been keenly interested in military affairs and made a splendid record with the Indiana National Guard both when it was on a peace footing and during the Spanish-American war.

Colonel Kiger was born at Lancaster, Ohio, February 3, 1861, a son of Jesse H. and Margaret (Halderman) Kiger. Colonel Kiger was reared on a farm, and acquired a liberal education, first in the common and high schools of Chillicothe, Ohio, and later in the Ohio State University. While in university he secured his first technical knowledge of military tactics and training. For a time he was in the hardware business at Williamsburg, Iowa, but on June 8, 1886, came to Bluffton and for ten years was employed in the hardware business of the Williamson Brothers. He acquired an interest in the store and when the Williamson Hardware Company was organized January 1, 1896, he was elected its manager. The other members of the firm, all now deceased, were L. A. and George T. Williamson. Colonel Kiger is also a stockholder in the Wells County Bank and one of the directors of the Union Trust and Savings Company.

Soon after he left the Ohio State University Colonel Kiger entered the Ohio National Guard as a private and in 1890 became identified with the Indiana National Guard at the time Company E was organized. He was elected its first captain and two years later was appointed major, and after another year was promoted to colonel of the Indiana National Guard. He was mustered into the service of the United States as a lieutenant colonel in the 160th Regiment on April 26, 1898, only two or three days after the war was declared with Spain. He went with the regiment to Chickamauga Park, was next ordered to Porto Rico, thence to Newport News, and to Lexington, Kentucky. In November, 1898, the regiment was moved to Columbus, Georgia, and on January 6, 1899, embarked for Cuba, Colonel Kiger having command of the First Detachment of the 160th Regiment. He continued in command of

this detachment until the entire regiment was landed. He saw much active duty in Cuba, where he remained until March 27, 1899, and then returned to Savannah, Georgia, and was mustered out April 26, 1899. Colonel Kiger is now on the retired list of the Indiana National Guard.

He was first married in 1884, and had two children by that union. His son Bruce Kiger was graduated from the Bluffton High School and secured his higher education in the Ohio State University. He became prominent as a newspaper man, was connected with the Arkansas Gazette at Little Rock four years and subsequently with the Detroit News. His death in April, 1914, cut short a most promising career. The other child of Colonel Kiger was a daughter who died in infancy. In November, 1912, he married Ruth Barringer. She was born in Covington, Ohio, graduated from the Union City, Indiana, High School, and was a graduate nurse of the Protestant Hospital of Columbus, Ohio. She followed her profession actively for eight years. Colonel and Mrs. Kiger are active members of the Presbyterian Church of Bluffton. He is a republican in politics, and is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Royal Arch Chapter No. 95, Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters, and Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, of which he is past eminent commander.

B. C. KELLEY is head of the firm of B. C. Kelley & Son, manufacturers of granite and marble monuments at Bluffton. It is a business which has been developed through successive years, and the present firm has been in existence almost twenty years.

Mr. B. C. Kelley was born at Zanesville, Ohio, April 30, 1857. His father, Patrick Kelley, was a native of Dublin, Ireland, coming to the United States and first settling in Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Axe. After their marriage they moved to Ohio. They were the parents of five children: James Kelley, of Kentucky; George Kelley, of Topeka, Kansas; John W. Kelley, of Geneva, Adams County, Indiana; Samuel F. Kelley, who died in 1917; and B. C. Kelley.

B. C. Kelley grew to manhood in Ohio, and had to be satisfied with a common school education. He came to Adams County, Indiana, in early life, and at Geneva married Rebecca J. Nelson. After his marriage he took up farming near Geneva and lived on a farm for a time, until the death of his wife in 1892.

He then began learning the trade of marble cutter and in 1897 entered business for himself at Geneva. Soon afterward he established a branch shop at Berne, and in 1906 removed to Bluffton and bought the old established business of W. S. Kapps. Since 1897 his son John W. Kelley has been associated with him.

By his first wife B. C. Kelley had six children, and the four still living are: John W.; George H., a railroad man with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Plymouth, Indiana; Louise, wife of Joe Klug, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Susie, wife of Albert Boseker, of Fort Wayne. Mr. B. C. Kelley owns a home at 315 Miller Street in Bluffton.

His son and business partner, John W. Kelley, was born near Geneva in Adams County, April 16, 1882. He grew up on a farm, was educated in the high school at Geneva and at the early age of fifteen went into business with his father. In June, 1902, John W. Kelley married Bessie M. Kelly. Though of the same family name they were not relatives. Mrs. Kelley was born near Geneva, Indiana, and was educated in the common schools there. They have a family of bright and attractive children, Madeline M., Helen L., Susie Marie, Joseph W., and Martha E. This family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Bluffton.

Politically Mr. Kelley is a democrat and has taken an active part in local affairs. He owns his home at 633 South Marion Street. The business building occupied by B. C. Kelley & Son belongs to both partners. B. C. Kelley also owns a farm of forty acres in Union Township and his son is interested in real estate at Fort Wayne and Bluffton, Indiana.

Charles J. Blackman, Doctor of Osteopathy, entered upon the work of his profession at Bluffton about fifteen years ago and in addition to the prestige he has gained through his individual work is especially well known as founder and proprietor of the Blackman Sanitarium. Doctor Blackman is a physician of splendid qualifications, and is a very useful man when anything that concerns the welfare of the community is at stake, as has been proved on numerous occasions.

Doctor Blackman is a native of Ohio and when an infant his parents removed to Toledo, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. He graduated from the high school, and later entered the Still College of Osteopathy at Des Moines, Iowa, where he pursued the full five years' course and from which he was graduated with the degree D. O. in 1903. For a time he was in Chicago, also in Toledo, but made his permanent location in Bluffton, where he conducted a growing office practice for fourteen years. Recognizing the opportunity and the broad usefulness of a properly conducted institution of the kind, he then established his sanitarium. For this purpose he bought the old Deam residence at the corner of Wabash and Main Streets, had it completely remodeled and adapted for his purposes, and through this institution has since handled much of his splendid practice.

Doctor Blackman is a member of the First Reformed Church and has been especially helpful to the church through his talent as a musician. He is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and also belongs to the Royal Arch Chapter and Council and the Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Des Moines Lodge No. 981. Politically Doctor Blackman is an independent republican.

James S. Clark has done his principal work in connection with the traction companies of Indiana, and is now secretary and general manager of the Marion & Bluffton Traction Company.

He was born at Bluffton March 15, 1887, a son of D. W. and Ella (Stewart) Clark. His father was reared in Wells County, Indiana, and about the close of the Civil war removed to Ohio, where he remained some years. Returning to Bluffton, he learned the trade of tinner and has been steadily engaged in that line most of his active life. He became connected with the Williamson Hardware Company at the time that company was organized at Bluffton. His wife was born in Ohio, but was reared in Adams County, Indiana. D. W. Clark and wife had four sons and two daughters: Allen W., who is agent at Bluffton for both the traction companies; Bessie, who died at the age of three years; James S.; Harry, manager of the Morris 5 and 10-cent store at Hartford City, Indiana; Jennie, wife of John Tudor, of New Orleans; and Fred, who is connected with the General Electric Company at Fort Wayne.

James S. Clark grew up in his native city of Bluffton and secured his early education in the grammar and high schools, following which he worked as clerk in a grocery store for several years. He then took the combined course in bookkeeping and stenography at the Indiana Business College at Muncie, and left school to become bookkeeper and

stenographer with the Marion and Bluffton Traction Company. He was with that company while the lines were being built and when the road began operation became auditor. He has gained a very thorough knowledge of the business and was promoted to his present position entirely on merit and efficiency.

April 19, 1908, Mr. Clark married Cleona Watkins. She was born and reared in Wells County, daughter of Joseph and Martha Watkins. She received most of her education in the schools of Adams County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have three sons: Ralph W., aged seven; James W., Jr., aged six; and Joseph R., who was born in October, 1916. The family are active members of the Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Clark is a deacon and an assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, and has served as secretary of the lodge and is also a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92. Knights of Pythias. Politically he is quite active as a republican. Mr. and Mrs. Clark own a comfortable home at the corner of Market and Morgan streets.

Henry M. Edris about six years ago entered the real estate, insurance and farm loan business at Bluffton, and his dealings and transactions have been steadily growing in volume and importance until he now ranks among the leaders in this line in Wells County.

Mr. Edris represents an old family of Wells County, and was born on a farm in Rock Creek Township in October, 1868. He is a son of Henry and Emma (Weber) Edris. Henry Edris was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1840, and died when about forty-seven years of age. His parents were Leonard and Elizabeth (Spitler) Edris, both natives of Pennsylvania and of German stock. Henry Edris was an infant when his father died, and he grew up in the home of his mother and on January 12, 1863, married Miss Emma Weber. She was a daughter of Lawrence and Sarah (Moyer) Weber, both natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania. In 1864 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Edris came to Wells County, Indiana, locating on a farm in section 30 of Rock Creek Township. Henry Edris cleared up his land and by industry and good management developed an excellent farm. Besides his 160 acres in Wells County he owned 80 acres in Rock Creek Township of Huntington County. He and his wife were active members of the Emanuel Reformed Church in Rock Creek Township, which had been founded by one of his wife's relatives. Politically he was a democrat. Henry Edris and wife had eight children: Ella, wife of Calvin Smelser, of Rock Creek Township; Edward, who has one of the fine farms of Rock Creek Township; Henry M.; Aaron C., a farmer in Rock Creek Township; Elizabeth, wife of Max Shoenline, of Bluffton; Milton P., who owns and operates the old homestead in Rock Creek Township; Harry, who is connected with the Studebaker corporation in South Bend, Indiana; Louis, of Mishawaka, Indiana.

Henry M. Edris grew up on his father's farm in Rock Creek Township and had the benefit of the district schools, also the public schools of Bluffton and took a business course in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Beyond his education and good health he had no capital with which to begin life and he first commended himself to the business community in the capacity of a clerk. For sixteen years he was employed at Bluffton, and then about 1912 entered the insurance business and has developed this line together with real estate and farm loans until his transactions cover practically all of Wells County.

Mr. Edris married Maggie Eichhorn, who was born in Rock Creek Township, a daughter of Daniel Eichhorn. They have three children.

Henry E. is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, was employed in the Studabaker corporation at Bluffton a year, but in May, 1917, enlisted in the army and is now in the coast artillery. The second child, Dorothy, graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1917, while Catherine is still in the public schools. The family are members of the Reformed Church and Mr. Edris is a democrat.

Harvey Leonare Ivins, chief engineer of the Bracy Pumping Station at Bluffton, is a veteran in the service of the oil pipe line, and has operated in the states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, having been in the service for more than twenty-five years.

He was born in Kansas, September 29, 1874, a son of Amos and Emma (Arnold) Ivins. His father was a native of Indiana and his mother of Ohio. After their marriage they removed to Illinois, then to Kansas and finally came back to Wabash County, Indiana, and settled near Laketon. They had three sons, the other two being Edward and William.

Harvey L. Ivins grew up on a farm near Laketon, Indiana, attended the common schools there, but from the age of twelve was practically making his own living. He followed farm work for a time but at the age of fifteen found employment on a railroad section and soon afterward went to work for the Indiana Pipe Line.

March 17, 1897, Mr. Ivins married Emma Lantzenheiser. She was reared in Wabash County and graduated from the common schools there. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ivins located in Wabash County and he also spent a brief time in North Dakota. In November, 1898, he resumed his work with the Pipe Line Company and was soon sent to Illinois, where he was an engineer for about eighteen months. His next transfer took him to Perrysville, Ohio, where he was in the service of the Ohio Oil Company when its station was built at Perrysville. Fourteen months later he was transferred to Bluffton, in 1909, and has been chief engineer in charge of the local pumping station.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivins have two sons, Harold and Arnold, the latter born in 1907. Harold has completed the course of the common schools. Mr. Ivins is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and with the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, while his leaning is toward the democracy, he is largely independent in casting his vote. He owns a comfortable home at the southwest corner of Ohio and Oak streets in Bluffton.

Edwin R. Kribbs. The late Edwin R. Kribbs was a well-known and highly prosperous farmer of Wells County, who contributed his full share toward advancing the agricultural prosperity of his community. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born, August 3, 1879, in Clarion County, which was the lifelong home of his parents, Phillip B. and Phalistua P. (Fulton) Kribbs.

Scholarly in his tastes and ambitions, Edwin R. Kribbs received excellent educational advantages in his native state, attending the Pennsylvania State Normal School, and Reed Institute. He subsequently taught school one term in Clarion County, and then, in 1899, came to Wells County, Indiana, and in addition to working for a while in the oil fields bought a half interest in a general store at Dillman. He continued his residence in Dillman until 1915, when, with his family, he removed to his farm in section 7, Jackson Township, assuming possession of the conveniently arranged and modernly equipped bungalow that he had just completed and where he died December 11, 1917. Mr. Kribbs had sixty-seven acres of rich and fertile land, and in addition

to carrying on general farming to advantage he made a specialty of breeding and raising Guernsey cattle.

On September 17, 1901, Mr. Kribbs was united in marriage with Ida May Lee, who was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, May 4, 1885, a daughter of ex-County Commissioner, George W. Lee, and grand-daughter of Jonathan R. and Susanna (Banter) Lee.

Jonathan R. Lee, a native of Ohio, came with his parents to Wells County, Indiana, and having bought land in Jackson Township was there engaged in farming and stock raising during the remainder of his life. He was a democrat in politics and an active member of the Universalist Church. His wife, Susanna Banter, was born in Virginia, and died on the home farm in Jackson Township. Eight children were born of their marriage, as follows: William, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of S. H. Palmer; Margaret, widow of Phillip Elkins; Lucy J., wife of Meredith Capper, of Pulaski County, Indiana; John, of Jackson Township; George W., father of Mrs. Kribbs; Sarah, widow of Dr. Thomas Morris, who moved from Indiana to Maryland; and Mary, wife of George W. McFarland, of Marion, Indiana.

Born and reared in Jackson Township, George W. Lee remained with his parents until attaining his majority. Soon after his marriage he settled in Dillman, where he has since carried on general farming with both profit and pleasure, at one time owning 235 acres of land in this part of the state. He resides in Van Buren, and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Conwell, live on the home estate, which is in an excellent state of cultivation. Mr. Lee married Mary M. McFarland, a native of Jackson Township, and to them six children have been born, namely: Florence, widow of James Compton, is a resident of Warren, Indiana; Alice, wife of David Bradstreet, of Lander, Wyoming; Ida May, now Mrs. Kribbs; Nora H., wife of Guy Conwell; and two, who died in infancy, Sydney N. and Frederick. Mr. Lee is a prominent member of the democratic party, and has served one term as county commissioner. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he has been a trustee.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kribbs, namely: Lucille M., born April 18, 1902, is a student of the Warren High School; and Lillian Lavelle, born November 12, 1903, is a student in the Warren High School. Mrs. Kribbs is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Warren as was her husband. Fraternally Mr. Kribbs was a member, and past grand, of McNatt Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Warren Encampment.

George W. Niblick is one of the members of the prominent Niblick family of Adams County whose activities have been transferred to Wells County, and who is now proprietor and manager of a fine farm in Lancaster Township, with daily mail delivery over rural route No. 5 out of Bluffton.

Mr. Niblick was born in Kirkland Township of Adams County September 15, 1860. He is a son of Robert and Catherine (Hartman) Niblick and a grandson of James Niblick, the founder of the family in Adams County. The Niblicks were among the first dozen settlers in that county.

James Niblick was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in 1801 and was brought by his parents to America when two years of age. He grew up in Ohio, learned the cooper's trade, and in the fall of 1834 settled on section 6, Washington Township, in Adams County. For ten years after coming to Adams County he is said to have been the only cooper in the county. He subsequently sold his farm and moved to Decatur and later went out to Missouri where he died in the fall of 1869. He

was twice married, his first wife being Anna Carter and his second wife Sarah A. Ball. There were eight children by each union.

Robert Niblick, father of George W., was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, February 10, 1824, and was ten years of age when brought to Adams County. He received only such advantages as the subscription schools of that day afforded. After the death of his mother he was sent back to Ohio, but finally returned to Adams County and after his marriage located on a farm in Kirkland Township. This land was then heavily covered with timber and his first home was a log cabin, with greased paper for windows. After eleven years in that humble abode they built a fine brick residence which was one of the best in the township. The brick and lime were burned on the Niblick farm. Robert Niblick became a prosperous farmer and large land owner, gave away much of his land to his children, and had a comfortable competence for his last years. He died January 15, 1900. He was a Union soldier, a member of Company E of the Twelfth Indiana Infantry and was with Sherman on the march to the sea and participated in the Grand Review at Washington. For many years he was affiliated with Grand Army Post No. 69 at Decatur. He held several local offices, and for a number of years after coming to Adams County was the only republican in his township. In 1864 only five republican votes were cast for Lincoln in the township. For a number of years the postoffice of Gath was kept in the Niblick home, and his wife had charge of the local mails. Robert Niblick married April 19, 1849, Catherine H. Hartman, who was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1830, a daughter of Philip and Susanna (Hess) Hartman. The Hartman family came to Adams County in 1840 and were also pioneer residents of Kirkland Township. Robert Niblick and wife had ten children: James T.; Susan E.; Mary E., deceased; Charles B.; Margaret, who married C. Curan; George W.; Jennie; William J., deceased; Harvey P.; and Anna Belle. The mother of these children died November 15, 1899.

George W. Niblick grew up on his father's farm, attended the public schools of Kirkland Township, and since early manhood has been a hard working and industrious citizen, active as a farmer in Adams County, and on March 26, 1911, came to his present place in Wells County. He has his farm of eighty acres in first class condition, and is doing a good business as a general farmer and stock raiser. Mr. Niblick is a republican and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On August 21, 1886, he married Miss Annie Lowdermilk, daughter of Alfred and Mary Jane (Cox) Lowdermilk, who came from North Carolina. Mrs. Niblick's brothers and sisters are: David, who married Annie Michaels; Bert, who married Miss Stinson; Ella, who married William Kain; and Maggie married Charles Curren.

Mr. and Mrs. Niblick are parents of the following children: Minerva J., who married John Sarfen, of Fort Wayne; Dorcy T., who married Alice Liest; Sadie, who became the wife of George Loutzenhein; Belle, wife of Daniel Foy; Edith, who married E. Ratcliff; Rufus, unmarried; and Milo, who married Mary Dedrick.

Fay W. Cullins is one of the recent newcomers to Wells County, but his advent has a significance in agricultural and livestock circles, since he has established himself as a breeder and raiser of the highest grades of cattle and sheep, being proprietor of the Cullins Stock Farm, besides having a very modern dairy.

Mr. Cullins bought his farm of 112 acres on March 18, 1917. It is located 2½ miles north of Bluffton and in situation and point of fer-

tility is regarded as one of the finest farms in Lancaster Township. Mr. Cullins' program is the breeding of standard fullblood polled Durham, Shorthorn and Guernsey cattle and fullblood Shropshire sheep. He has much experience in animal husbandry and is competent to guide the operations of a stock farm and it is his intention to have the finest available stock that it is possible to produce. Such an enterprise means much at the present time and for the future of Wells County. Mr. Cullins has on his farm one of the largest and finest silos in Northern Indiana, 60 feet 8 inches high, and with a capacity sufficient to furnish silage to all the livestock on his farm.

Mr. Cullins was born in Greentown, Howard County, Indiana, May 8, 1889, a son of Cornelius J. and Martha E. (Acord) Cullins. His father died July 22, 1910, and his mother is still living. Their children were: Howard C., Effie B., Earl W., Annie, deceased, and Fay W. Fay is the only member of the family who is married. He married April 3, 1915, Miss Cora Payton, daughter of James and Nancy Payton of Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Cullins has one sister, Ethel, wife of A. T. Shepard.

Mr. Cullins is a republican, a member of the Methodist Church, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

George A. Fisher. The value of George A. Fisher's citizenship in Wells County is due to the fact that for over a quarter of a century he has occupied and diligently cultivated one of the good farms of Union Township, and with all the responsibilities of a home maker and family provider has exercised a wholesome influence in behalf of community betterment and every movement that reflects the higher and better life of society.

This branch of the Fisher family has been known in Wells County ever since the pioneer period. The grandparents of George A. Fisher were Henry and Elizabeth (Crites) Fisher. Henry Fisher was born in Pennsylvania, his father having come to that state from Germany. Henry Fisher located in Ohio and beginning life with no capital but with unlimited energy, he attained what was considered a modest fortune of those days. He and his wife reared a numerous family of children in comfortable circumstances and well fitted them for the responsibilities of mature age.

The late Daniel Fisher was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, June 14, 1826, went through youth as a farm boy and wisely improved all the limited advantage of the local schools. At the age of twenty-one he began learning the cooper's trade, and after working at it for a year brought his modest capital to Wells County, Indiana, and located eighty acres of wooded land in Union Township. In 1850 he married Sophia A. Meyers and for seven years occupied the old farm in Union Township. The first wife died July 17, 1857, the mother of three children, Henry, Elizabeth and Margaret A. After her death Daniel Fisher returned to his father's old homestead in Ohio, where on March 25, 1859, he married Sarah J. Schull. In April, 1859, they returned to Wells County and kept their home on the original farm until 1862, when it was sold and Daniel Fisher bought 120 acres in another part of Union Township. Later he added another forty and made that one of the excellent farm homes of the county. Politically he was a republican and the claim was made for him a few years ago that he had probably cast more presidential votes in Wells County, at least in Union Township, than any other citizen. He had begun voting as a whig. He was one of the real pioneers of Union Township and his only neighbor when he first located there was Jesse Crites. Each of them owned a horse and wagon and when they went to mill they combined their horses, and one of them

would drive the team while the other would go ahead with an ax to clear away the brush or other obstacles from the road. The second wife of Daniel Fisher died on August 25, 1890. She had been an invalid for twenty-four years. Both were active members of the Church of God. Nine children were born to the second marriage named Emmett, Matilda, Clara, George A., Elmer, Rachel, Burt and Della; Marietta died in infancy.

George A. Fisher was born on his father's farm in Union Township May 20, 1865. The circumstances and environment of his early youth were those of the average Indiana farm boy of that period, and he lived at home and bent himself steadily to the work of the home farm until twenty-one years of age, then worked at the carpenter's trade for eighteen years. He then settled on twenty acres of present farm of 120 acres where the substantial building improvements are a credit to his own industry and productive labors. He is still carrying on a business as a general farmer and stock raiser. Mr. Fisher like his father is devoted to the cause of the republican party.

On September 7, 1890, he married Miss Emma Motz, daughter of Martin and Elizabeth Motz. They have two sons, Lawrence and Donald. The adopted son, Harley Zion, was four years old when Mr. Fisher took him. He lived with the family till he reached manhood and is now working on the Erie Railroad.

JOHN C. RABER. There may have been a time when farm life in Indiana was one of unending hardship but such is not the case at present especially in such sections as Rock Creek Township where intelligent and well informed people live, where expensive farm machinery is bought and where, in many cases, the pure, invigorating air of the country permeates homes that have city conveniences. Farm industries will always be among the most important in the country but in modern days farm life need not necessarily be unusually laborious or isolated. Intelligent farmers like John C. Raber, who has been a resident of Wells County since boyhood, can easily realize the improved conditions that have been brought about through the enterprising efforts of such men as himself.

John C. Raber was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1849. His parents were Joseph and Elizabeth Raber, most estimable people, who came to Wells County with their children in March, 1861. The father's first purchase was eighty acres and later he bought an additional 160 acres. The land had been but slightly cleared and little improved and hard work awaited him, but with the help of his sons the clearing was accomplished and excellent improvements were made. The parents both died in Rock Creek Township, the father in 1887 and the mother in 1888. They had the following children: William, August, Maria, Lucinda, David, John C., Eliza and Israel, there being three survivors: David, John C. and Eliza.

John C. Raber was twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to Wells County. He had attended school in Lebanon County and afterward had some school opportunities in Rock Creek Township, which he made the most of and has always been considered a well informed man. He owns three farms, two comprising 120 acres and the home farm of 159½, which he got from his father. He has successfully carried on a general farming line here and still takes general oversight although he has sturdy sons and sons-in-law to relieve him of hard work.

Mr. Raber was married February 21, 1878, to Miss Maria Lucabaugh, who is a daughter of Henry and Mary Lucabaugh, this being an old and substantial family of Wells County. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Raber: Louis; Charles, who is deceased;

Ada, who is the wife of Frank Hoffacker, of Rock Creek Township; Artie, who married Ernst McAfee, of Rock Creek Township; Henry, who married Eva McClure; Cora, who is the wife of A. Fishbaugh, of Rock Creek Township; Stella, who is the wife of W. Gordon; and Homer, who married Maud Gilbert. He has always taken an interest in school matters and has been one of the influential democrats of this section to work for school improvement. With his family Mr. Raber belongs to the German Reformed Church.

William Bushee. While the tilling of the soil and the raising of stock are among the oldest industries in which man has engaged, they have not always been profitable to those who engaged in them. Old methods have given way to new, as conditions have changed, and the modern farmer is a much better informed man as to the possibilities of his land than was his grandfather or even his father. Not many of these opportunities are being lost by the farmers in Wells County, and in Jefferson Township are found agriculturists of most excellent judgment, business acumen and practical ideas, who have known how to turn these opportunities to good account and have become men of independent means thereby. One of these is William Bushee, who has spent his life here and is one of the representative men of Jefferson Township.

William Bushee was born March 23, 1851, in Allen County, just across the line, and is a son of Jacob and Ollie (Cave) Bushee, who were natives of Hocking County, Ohio. When William was a few months old they came to Wells County, Indiana. The father bought 240 acres of wild land and set about the work of clearing, cultivating and improving, a hard task in those days but one he finally accomplished with the help of his sons. His children were: Allen, Sarah E., William, Rhoda, James F. and Bathilda and Matilda, twins. The father died in 1899, the mother passing away August 25, 1896.

William Bushee attended the district schools and remained at home as his father's main helper until he was eighteen years of age and then started out for himself. His first farm contained thirty acres of wild land. After clearing twenty acres and fencing it he accepted a fair offer and sold and then purchased his present farm of fifty-one acres, which he has magnificently improved, but recently completing the building of a fine stucco dwelling house, which is equipped with modern comforts and conveniences and in appearance is a credit to the neighborhood. Mr. Bushee has been the owner of this farm for twenty-one years and through his good management has annually increased its value. He gives his attention to general farming and stock raising. Mr. Bushee helped clear eighty acres in Union Township and two eighty-acre farms in Jefferson Township and also cleared his farm where he now lives.

While not a politician in the general acceptance of the term, Mr. Bushee is interested in political matters as becomes a good citizen. He votes with the republican party. In his father's family the religious home was the Presbyterian Church and he is a member of that body. Mr. Bushee has never married.

Herbert Kasler. A man of good business capacity and intelligence, far-sighted, and earnest in purpose, Herbert Kasler, a well-known farmer of Liberty Township, is identified not only with the agricultural development of Wells County, but with one of the leading industries of this section of the state, being superintendent of the interests of the Holland & St. Louis Sugar Beet Company, a responsible position which he is ably filling. A son of Austin and Jemima (Smith) Kasler, he was born December 2, 1872, in Athens County, Ohio, where his mother died several years ago, and where his father is still living.

Herbert Kasler was brought up on the home farm in Ohio and obtained his education in the country schools. Leaving home at the age of fourteen years, he came to Wells County, Indiana, in search of remunerative employment, and for about five years was employed on a farm in Liberty Township, receiving for his labor eight dollars a month and his board. Going then to Marion, Indiana, Mr. Kasler entered the rolling mills as a furnace helper, and during the three years he was employed in the mills mastered the details of the trade, having gradually worked his way upward through every department. After his marriage, he worked for awhile in a saw mill, later being employed at his trade. Returning then to Wells County, Mr. Kasler worked as a farm hand five years. Having accumulated some money, he then bought forty acres of land in Liberty Township, and subsequently purchased forty acres more, at the present time having a well-appointed farm of eighty acres, on which he is raising satisfactory crops, his land responding readily to culture. Becoming sure that sugar beets would prove a profitable crop, he began raising them, and others soon followed his example, the venture proving very successful. Subsequently Mr. Kasler was chosen superintendent of the Holland & St. Louis Sugar Beet Company's interests in the counties above named, and in that capacity is efficiently aiding the development of the industry, which is of great help to the farmers of this vicinity.

Mr. Kasler married Miss Minnie Cole, April 21, 1895, and of their union five sons have been born, namely: Charles, Glenn, Rex, Max, and Dean. The youngest son is now a pupil in the grade schools, and the others have all attended the Liberty Center High School, from which Glenn was graduated. Mr. and Mrs. Kasler are also rearing a boy, Leo Cole, an orphan, and a nephew of Mrs. Kasler. Mr. Kasler and his wife are members of the Methodist Protestant Church, of which he is a trustee. He is a prohibitionist, and was the nominee of his party for sheriff of Wells County, receiving a comparatively large number of votes.

Robert D. Chalfant. The business of farming in Wells County has one of its most successful exponents in Robert D. Chalfant, whose home is on Rural Route No. 6 out of Bluffton in Harrison Township.

Mr. Chalfant represents a very old family of the county and was born on the family homestead in Harrison Township February 6, 1869, a son of Reason and Catherine (Valentine) Chalfant. His father was born in Ohio and at the age of three came to Wells County with his parents. The mother was born in Ohio and came to Wells County when a girl, the Valentine family locating a half mile south of where Robert D. Chalfant now has his home. The latter's parents were married on the old farm there, and soon located on the southwest quarter of section 25 in Harrison Township. Later they moved to a place half a mile south of where Robert now lives, and the father was owner and operator of 315 acres of land and was a very prosperous and influential citizen of his time. He was an active member of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church and a republican in politics. Of the six children three are still living: Abner, of Bluffton; Robert D.; and Mrs. Alice Gentes of Harrison Township.

Robert D. Chalfant was well trained to the vocation which he has always followed and had a good education in the local schools. He lived at home until his marriage. Besides the district schools he attended graded school and high school and also the Fort Wayne College, and for two terms was a successful teacher in Harrison Township.

Mr. Chalfant married Miss Mary Prillaman, daughter of Lewis

Prilliman, of a family noted more in detail in later paragraphs. She was educated in the district schools and also in the schools of Bluffton. Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant have three children. Fay is a graduate of the common schools and perfected herself in music, which she taught for a time, and is now the wife of George A. Hauk. Howard R. had a common school education and also attended the Sweeney Automobile School at Kansas City and is an expert mechanic in the automobile line. Cleo C. is a graduate of the common schools and is now attending Bluffton High School.

The family are active members of the Six Mile Christian Church, Mr. Chalfant being one of the church trustees. In politics he is a republican. As a farmer he operates 160 acres of land and has done a good business breeding Shropshire sheep and the better grades of hogs and cattle.

Lewis Prillaman, father of Mrs. Chalfant, was thirteen years of age when he came to Wells County. He assisted his father to clear and improve a farm, and gained his education in subscription schools. He made good use of his opportunities and for a time was a teacher at wages of $12 a month. On May 27, 1847, he married Marie Studabaker, daughter of William and Sarah (Thompson) Studabaker, of one of the oldest families of this part of Indiana. After their marriage they settled on part of his father's estate and later he bought 280 acres of the farm and made it one of the best improved places in the county. He and his first wife had the following children: Albina, deceased; Maria, widow of Philo Rogers; William; Sarah J., wife of John Bixler; Lucinda, wife of Charles Capp; Cora Bell, wife of Fred McBride; Caria May, wife of R. A. Brown; Zelda L.; Mary, wife of Mr. Chalfant; and Lewis D. After the death of the mother of these children Mr. Prillaman married Elizabeth M. Bayman, daughter of William Bayman. She died in September, 1868. September 1, 1870, he married Maria Masterson, who died January 12, 1873. On June 1, 1885, he married Laura R. Ripple. Lewis Prillaman was a prominent man of the county, filled several township offices, and in 1868 was elected a county commissioner, being the only republican ever chosen to that office in the county up to that time. He was an active member of the Six Mile Christian Church.

Isaac L. Jacobs. One of the substantial farmers and highly respected citizens of Wells County is Isaac L. Jacobs, who has been identified with this part of the great State of Indiana for more than forty years. He was born in Grant County, Indiana, near Jalapa, in a house that stood on the top of a high hill overlooking the Mississinewa River, February 18, 1853. His parents were Lorenzo D. and Hester A. (Johnson) Jacobs. His father was born in Vermont and his mother on a farm near the present site of the Capitol at Indianapolis, Indiana.

From Vermont Lorenzo D. Jacobs came as a young man first to Ohio and then to Indiana. He was married at North Manchester to Hester A. Johnson and they then came to Grant County where Mr. Jacobs entered land. At one time he owned a tract of 170 acres here and 300 acres west of the National Soldiers' Home at Marion, Indiana. He was a millwright by trade and erected mills in Grant and Wabash counties, and on his own land built a sawmill, gristmill and carding mill which he operated until his death. Born in 1816, he died in July, 1860, and was survived by his widow until June, 1864. Four of their children are still living, namely: Isaac L.: Curtis E., who is a stationary engineer, lives at Marion, Indiana; William E., who owns a large body of land in North Dakota, has had a family of fifteen children; and Milo E., who is a well-to-do business man of Dallas, Texas.

Isaac L. Jacobs was seven years old when his father died and four years later lost his mother also. He then took his future in his own hands and went to work for farmers, by the month, as was the custom. In 1875 he came to Wells County and entered the employ of A. T. Studabaker and for a number of years remained with him, his wages at the start being $16 a month.

Mr. Jacobs was married February 24, 1876, to Miss Lucinda C. Truax, who was born on the farm on which she has always lived, February 25, 1852. Her parents were Caleb and Sarah (Linn) Truax, the former of whom was born in Monroe County, Ohio, February 19, 1816, and the latter February 19, 1820. Both grew up in Monroe County and were married there in November, 1841, and in 1845 they came to Wells County, Indiana. Caleb Truax entered forty acres and bought forty acres in section 24, Harrison Township, and he improved his land with excellent buildings and invested in additional land. He died there in November, 1901, his wife having passed away in July, 1883. They were good, moral, upright people. They had three children, one daughter and two sons, namely: Joshua, who died when aged eighteen years; Kirk, who died at the age of ten years; and Lucinda C., who is Mrs. Jacobs. The latter was educated in the East Smoky Run School in Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have two sons: Leroy and Lorenzo D., both of whom are farmers in Harrison Township, the latter operating his father's farm. He married Mary Bugh and they have one child, Bernice L. Isaac L. Jacobs is a democrat in politics and has been a hearty worker in the party but he has never accepted any political office for himself.

Leroy Jacobs, the elder of two sons born to his parents Isaac L. and Lucinda C. (Truax) Jacobs, is one of Harrison Township's well known and representative men. He was born in Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, September 8, 1878, and has spent his life in this county. He attended the district schools and completed the school course and worked for his father on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age. He was married March 31, 1901, to Miss Jennie A. French, who was also born in Harrison Township, January 14, 1878. She is a daughter of Eli and Eliza (Risley) French, and was educated in the public schools.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs lived on the old Jacobs homestead for one year but in June, 1902, they came to Mr. Jacobs' present farm, a valuable property of 100 acres. Here he carries on general farming with very satisfactory results and also keeps a good grade of stock of all kinds. On public questions Mr. Jacobs takes a firm stand in favor of prohibition and cannot help feeling that his party has had much to do with bringing about the encouraging attitude of the public on the question of temperance, the value of which he illustrates by leading a wholesome, honest life. Both he and estimable wife are members of the Salem Evangelical Church in Nottingham Township, Wells County. They are active church workers and liberal contributors to the benevolent movements which the church undertakes.

John T. Buckner. Owning and occupying a well-kept and well-managed farm in Liberty Township, John T. Buckner is numbered among the intelligent and enterprising agriculturists that are so ably conducting the farming interests of Wells County, everything about his premises indicating the energy, industry and good judgment of the proprietor. He was born in Campbell County, Kentucky, a son of William N. Buckner, coming from pioneer stock.

Born in Bracken County, Kentucky, William N. Buckner grew to

manhood in his native state, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Campbell County. In 1855 he came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, and having bought land lying one mile north, and two miles west, of Liberty Center, was there a resident until his death. He was a steadfast democrat in politics, and both he and his wife were active members of the Church of Christ. His wife, whose maiden name was Amelia M. Yeton, was a native of Pendleton County, Kentucky. Their family consisted of nine children, of whom seven are living, namely: John T., of this sketch; Charles, of Liberty Center; Jane, wife of Joseph Thrailkill, of Liberty Township; Ella, living at home; Miami, wife of Lewis Beerbower, of Liberty Township; N. F., of Harrison Township; and B. F., of Liberty Township.

Three years old when brought by his parents to Wells County, John T. Buckner was educated in the rural schools, and until twenty-four years old assisted in the management of the home farm. Beginning then his career as an independent farmer, Mr. Buckner bought 120 acres of land in Liberty Township, and immediately began its improvement. It was heavily timbered, and soon the ringing strokes of his axe could be heard as he leveled the giants of the forest. By means of determined energy and industry, he cleared the land, placed it in a yielding condition, and as a general farmer has met with very satisfactory success. Mr. Buckner now owns eighty acres of land, he having deeded forty acres of his original tract to his daughter.

Mr. Buckner has been twice married. He married first Lorana Pribble, who bore him one child, Minnie F., wife of W. H. Day. Mr. Buckner married second Mrs. Emma (Adams) Buckner, widow of Dr. G. W. Buckner. Mrs. Buckner had two children by her first marriage: Frank, a graduate of the local high school; and Mary, a school girl. Politically Mr. Buckner is a democrat, and religiously he and his family are members of the Church of Christ.

Thomas F. Schwartz. The lumber industry is one of the important business lines at Uniondale, Wells County, and probably no other man than Thomas F. Schwartz is so well known in the same in this vicinity. Now manager of the Uniondale Lumber Company, he has had many years of lumber experience and has been identified with this business since boyhood and his judgment in this particular field is considered that of an expert.

Thomas F. Schwartz is a native of Wells County, Indiana, born December 5, 1876, and is a son of Levi and Harriet (Farling) Schwartz, both of whom were born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The father survives and resides in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, but the mother is deceased. They had seven children, the survivors being: Edward, who resides in Rock Creek Township, married Mary Lucabaugh; Annie, who is the wife of Albert Price, of Rock Creek Township; Effa, who is the wife of Orbe Davis, of Union Township; Margaret, who lives with her father; and Thomas F.

Until he was fifteen years old, Thomas F. Schwartz attended the public schools. He then went to work in a sawmill, beginning with a boy's tasks, at the bottom of the ladder. He found that he liked the business and continued to be associated with lumber, in various capacities until he accepted the position of manager of the Uniondale Lumber Company, a large concern that has interests over a wide territory, and much of its effectiveness is due to the ability and efficiency of Mr. Schwartz.

Mr. Schwartz was married to Miss Lulu Meyers, who is a daughter of Leonard Meyers, a well known resident of Markle, Huntington

County, Indiana. They have one daughter, Harriet Jean, who was born in 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz are members of the Lutheran Church and are interested in its various avenues of usefulness. In politics he is a democrat, and for many years has been a member of the Masonic fraternity.

CAPOLIS LAIRD BLUE, M. D. One of the most instructive and entertaining personal sketches found in this publication is that dealing with the life and experiences and career of the venerable M. C. Blue. Some appropriate space must also be devoted to his son, Dr. Capolis Laird, who for many years has been a prominent physician in Wells County and is especially honored and respected in his home locality of Tocsin in Jefferson Township.

Doctor Blue was born in Jefferson Township of Wells County December 16, 1868. He grew up on his father's farm, was educated in the district schools, also attended the Ossian graded schools and spent three years in the Ossian High School. Before completing his high school course he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business College at Valparaiso, where he took work in preparation for teaching and also graduated from the business department, on February 24, 1891. With this schooling he returned to his father's home, taught two terms, and then entered the School of Pharmacy at Chicago, where he graduated with the class of 1895. From there he entered the Fort Wayne Medical College, and at the end of three years graduated M. D. in the spring of 1898 and in the same class with Dr. Fred Metts of Bluffton.

Thus for twenty years Doctor Blue's skill, learning, growing experience and fine natural ability have been at the service of the people and of a constantly enlarging patronage in and around Tocsin. He has always remained a student and has been growing in his own capabilities in proportion to his widening practice. In 1901 he took post-graduate work in the Chicago Polyclinic and is a constant reader of the best literature of his profession, both periodical and the standard works, most of which are found in his own private library. Doctor Blue is a member of the Wells County and Indiana State Medical Societies, the Fort Wayne Academy of Medicine and the American Medical Association. He has filled the office of deputy health officer of Wells County.

Doctor Blue is a prominent Mason, being affiliated with Bluffton Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and with Fort Wayne Consistory of the Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite. He is also affiliated with Tocsin Lodge of the Knights of Pythias and Tocsin Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is a democrat but his time has been too thoroughly taken up with the work of his profession and with other matters to allow him to enter the field of politics to any extent.

On June 8, 1904, Doctor Blue married Nettie Clowser, daughter of Isaac and Maria (Randall) Clowser of Lancaster Township, Wells County. Mrs. Blue has a brother and sisters named: Clara, wife of Walter Reed; Ira, unmarried; Alta, wife of Shirley Hartman; and Velma, who married Alvin Troutman of Bluffton. Doctor and Mrs. Blue have two children: Elizabeth Leone, born October 12, 1905; and Miles Clair, born April 20, 1910.

CHARLES CHALFANT is a member of an old family in Harrison Township of Wells County, where the people of that name have lived since Wells County was almost a total wilderness of woods and swamp. Mr. Chalfant has for thirty years been pursuing his regular calling as a farmer and stockman and has a highly developed farm comprising the west half of the northeast quarter section 35.

He was born not far from his present residence on January 27, 1856. His parents were Robert and Mary (Melick) Chalfant. Robert Chalfant was born in Ohio and came to Wells County with his father, Chads Chalfant, the family settling on land where Charles Gentis now lives. At that time Harrison Township was completely covered with heavy timber and the grandfather exerted his energies as a pioneer to cut down the trees, grub the stumps and put his land into a state of cultivation. He lived out his life in this community. Robert Chalfant grew up here, made the best of his advantages in the early schools, and took up the same vocation as his father, buying a tract of land adjoining the old homestead. He lived there until his death. He was a very regular attendant and a worshiper in the services of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church. There were four children in the family: Charles; Nathan, of Harrison Township; Henry, now deceased; and Frank, who lives on the old farm.

Charles Chalfant while a boy attended school in the Myers Chapel school house. He was trained to his future vocation by discipline on the home farm and he lived with his parents until his marriage in 1886 to Miss Laura Hill. She was born in Ohio and was brought to Wells County when a girl.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant located on the farm they still own, and this is widely known as the Sunnyside Farm. Mr. Chalfant has always kept good grades of livestock and feeds most of his crops on his own farm. He is also interested in a threshing outfit.

He and his wife, who have no children, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ricetown, Indiana. Politically he is a republican with only a nominal interest in politics.

George W. Taber. A prominent agriculturist, and an extensive landholder of Wells County, George W. Taber, of Liberty Township, is a man of influence, having ever been the encourager and supporter of all projects calculated to benefit his community, and is held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens. A native of Indiana, he was born in Jasper County April 8, 1877.

His father, O. P. Taber, was born and bred in New York State, and there at the age of nineteen years he took unto himself a wife. Coming soon after that important event to Indiana, he rented a farm in Jasper County, and in addition to farming worked at the carpenter's trade, as a contractor and builder, erecting a schoolhouse in the township. Subsequently he engaged in the grain business at Remington, where he built two of the finest elevators in that section of the state. While thus occupied, he obtained a good start in life, and afterwards as a contractor in the graveling of roads he accumulated a handsome property, at his death, November 22, 1915, leaving an estate valued at about $80,000. He was an active member of the republican party, and served as county commissioner of Jasper County three terms, a record of service not equalled by any other man. He belonged to the Knights of Pythias, and was active in the work of the lodge. He married Fannie J. Tammey, of New York State, who passed away August 20, 1899. Five children were born of their union, three of whom are living now, in 1918, as follows: George W.; Lois R., a graduate of the Remington High School, is the wife of Dr. P. J. Pothuisje, of Denver, Colorado, now serving in the United States Army, being lieutenant of his company; and Albert P., of Bluffton, who is also a graduate of the Remington High School.

Reared on a farm, and educated in the Remington graded and high schools, George W. Taber remained under the parental roof-tree until his marriage. Assuming possession then of his present farm, which is

located on the Gregg Pike, three and a half miles west of Bluffton, he has since been actively engaged in farming, stock breeding, stock raising and stock feeding, making a specialty of Hereford cattle. He also feeds some hogs and ships them and the cattle in car loads receiving invariably the highest market price. Mr. Taber has 200 acres of land in his home place, in Liberty Township, and 80 acres of good land in Rock Creek Township.

Mr. Taber married June 28, 1903, Etta M. Pugh, who was born in White County, Indiana, and was graduated from the Wolcott High School. Their union has been brightened by the birth of four children, namely: Oliver P., born May 8, 1904; Alden P., born May 21, 1907; Mary Jane, born June 3, 1910, and Martha Renette, born August 29, 1915. Mrs. Taber is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Taber is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias.

David S. Johnson. A fine representative of the native born citizens of Wells County, David S. Johnson holds high rank among the prosperous agriculturists of Liberty Township, where he is carrying on general farming, with unquestioned ability, his property being numbered among the valuable and well-kept estates of the vicinity. A son of the late Rev. Abel Johnson, he was born on the farm he now owns and occupies, December 16, 1857.

Rev. Abel Johnson was born and bred in Pennsylvania, and as a young man came to Indiana first living in Huntington County and then coming to Wells County. Locating in Liberty Township, he bought 240 acres of land lying one mile south of Liberty Center, and began its improvement. He was widely known as the founder of the Baptist Church at Liberty Center, and for many years served as its pastor. He married Sarah Smith, a native of Ohio, and of their ten children five are living, as follows: Thomas, living near Sioux City, Iowa; B. F., of Crawfordsville, Indiana, was formerly state statistician; A. J., of Liberty Township; Mary, widow of James Cotton, lives in New Castle, Indiana; and David S., the subject of this sketch.

Growing to man's estate on the home farm, David S. Johnson attended the district schools regularly when young, and until his marriage assisted in the care of the home farm, and later, his father removing to Liberty Center, he assumed entire charge of the parental estate, which consisted of 240 acres of good land. Mr. Johnson has since purchased eighty acres of the old farm and is managing it with characteristic skill and success.

Mr. Johnson married Mary B. Russell, a daughter of James L. and Elizabeth (Deam) Russell, neither of whom are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have four children, namely: Harry, a farmer in Liberty Township; Mrs. Olive Davis, a widow, living in Bluffton; Homer, a graduate of the Liberty Center High School, now engaged in agricultural pursuits in Liberty Township, and Everett, a graduate of the same school, is now traveling for a Chicago hardware firm. Mr. Johnson is a man of financial ability, and one of the stockholders of the Liberty Center Deposit Bank. He is a republican in politics, and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church, in which he is serving as deacon.

Jacob J. Neff. Representative of the enterprising and worthy agriculturists of Wells County, Jacob J. Neff is meeting with marked success in his free and independent occupation, his land being in an admirable state of culture, owing to the sound judgment and persistent

energy with which he has devoted himself to its management. He was born October 28, 1850, in Athens County, Ohio, a son of John Neff.

His grandfather, Jacob Neff, was born and educated in Germany, and there married Anna Barbara Copp. Immigrating to this country prior to the Revolutionary war, he settled in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and there spent his remaining days.

John Neff was born on the home farm in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1793. After the death of his father, and while yet a young man, he migrated with his mother and one sister to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he lived for a year. Moving from there to Athens County, Ohio, he took up wild land, and on the farm that he improved remained until January, 1865. Coming then to Wells County, this state, he located in Harrison Township, on section 18, where he followed farming until his death, March 19, 1872. He was a democrat in politics and loyal to the interests of his party. He married May 28, 1827, in Fairfield County, Ohio, Catherine Neff, a native of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, being a daughter of John Neff, who emigrated from Germany to the United States and subsequently served as a soldier in the War of 1812. She died on the home farm on the very same day that her husband died, her death occurring within six hours of his, and both were buried in one grave. They were a most estimable couple, and devoted to each other, never after their marriage having been separated from one another more than twenty-four hours at a time. Nine children blessed their union, as follows: Levi, who died in Bluffton in 1884; Anna B.; Margaret E., deceased, was the wife of Samuel Friedline; Mary Magdaline, deceased; Amelia and Sarah, twins, both deceased; Catherine, deceased, was the wife of Adam Bartemaly; Jacob J., and Caroline, wife of George Higman. Both parents were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church.

Fifteen years of age when he came with the family to Harrison Township, Wells County, Jacob J. Neff assisted his father in the improvement of the home farm, which is located two and a half miles southwest of Bluffton. Succeeding to the ownership of the property, he is carrying on general farming with highly satisfactory results, being one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the community, owning forty acres.

Mr. Neff married, August 5, 1880, Sarah M. Zirkle, who was born in New Haven, West Virginia, April 1, 1844, a daughter of Noah and Nancy (Baumgartner) Zirkle, who settled in Wells County in 1880. She died October 14, 1885, leaving two children, Louisa May and Clara V.

Louisa May Neff, born September 1, 1881, has been twice married. On March 5, 1898, she married Charles E. Sellers, who died October 31, 1902, leaving her with one son, Charles E. Sellers, born February 19, 1902. Mrs. Sellers married for her second husband, in 1904, William H. Gilbert of Rock Creek Township, Wells County, and their only child, Martha M. Gilbert, was born March 29, 1905.

Clara V. Neff, born January 15, 1884, married, December 22, 1901, Oscar W. Lane, and they are the parents of three children, Leona Mae, born November 16, 1902; Eva Eloise, born April 18, 1904; and Mary E., born May 23, 1908. A steadfast democrat in politics, Mr. Neff has been active in party ranks, and has served as superintendent of the good roads in Harrison Township. He is a valued member of the Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church to which his wife also belongs.

Francis Marion Buckner has for a number of years carried heavy business responsibilities, as a banker, stockman, farmer, and his own

career and that of his family deserve special mention in any history of Wells County.

Mr. Buckner was born in Liberty Township, this county, October 9, 1867, and is a son of William N. and Amelia M. (Yelton) Buckner. Both parents are now deceased.

The late William N. Buckner was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, September 13, 1827, a son of Thomas and Matilda (Hanson) Buckner, also natives of Kentucky. Thomas Buckner was a son of Philip and Tabitha Buckner, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Maryland. William N. Buckner spent his early life on a farm, attended a log cabin subscription school, and on January 15, 1851, married Miss Amelia M. Yelton, also a native of Kentucky and daughter of Charles and Amelia (Gosney) Yelton, the former a native of Virginia. William N. Buckner came to Wells County from Kentucky in 1855 and bought forty acres of heavily timbered land in section 16 of Liberty Township. Later he bought eighty acres in section 18, and cleared and improved this and from the fruits of his prosperity built up a fine estate comprising over half a section of land. He was an active democrat and he and his wife were members of the Disciples Church. They had nine children: John T.; Charles N.; Millie J., widow of Joseph Tharilkill; Missouri E., who has never married; Martha Ann, now deceased, who married Byron H. Prible; George W., who graduated from a veterinary college of New York City and is now deceased; Miami M., wife of Louis Beerbower of Liberty Township; Francis Marion; and Benjamin F., a resident of Liberty Township.

Francis M. Buckner has had a very busy and strenuous career. He spent his early life on his father's farm, attended the district schools and also spent some time in Purdue University studying veterinary surgery and taking the agricultural course. For ten terms he was a successful teacher in the district schools of Liberty, Rock Creek and Harrison townships.

Mr. Buckner married Miss Stella Doster, the only living daughter of the late Dr. Hezekiah Doster. Mrs. Buckner is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, and is a woman of many talents and more than ordinary abilities, and with all her duties at home has cultivated those interests and studious occupations which keep a woman in close touch with the social life around her. She was also a teacher for ten terms. Mr. and Mrs. Buckner have three children. George D., born April 7, 1892, graduated from the Bluffton High School, took the degree A. B. from the University of Indiana in 1916, and is now a student in the Indiana Medical College of Indianapolis, and a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Dale, the second child, born September 21, 1895, is a graduate of the Bluffton High School, now teaching at Poneto, and married February 13, 1918, Arch S. Davis. Joy F. is a graduate of the Bluffton High School and is now a student in the State University.

Dr. Hezekiah Doster, father of Mrs. Buckner, was born in Somersetshire, England, July 6, 1843, and died May 10, 1910. He came to the United States with his parents in July, 1848, and became a resident of Wells County, Indiana, in August, 1852. In addition to his advantages in the common schools he attended a high school known as Liber College near Portland in Jay County, Indiana, from 1860 to 1865, and taught in the intervals of his student career. In 1865 he began the study of medicine at Bluffton and in 1867 entered the medical department of the University of Michigan and in 1868 received his M. D. degree from the Western Reserve Medical College of Ohio. In that year he began his country practice in the southern part of Wells county. In

1871 he received a diploma from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York. For many years he was successfully engaged in looking after a large country practice in and around Poneto and at the same time managed a large farm. This farm comprised over five hundred acres, and an unusual feature of it in early times was a large artificial lake well stocked with fish. Doctor Doster married September 27, 1866, Sarepta Tewksbury, who was born October 2, 1846, a daughter of Simeon Tewksbury. The two daughters of this union were Stella, born October 19, 1867, now the wife of Mr. Buckner, and Victoria, born November 19, 1883, and now deceased.

Mr. Buckner and family have the responsibility of cultivating and managing seven hundred acres of land in Nottingham and Harrison townships. The Doster farms have long been noted for their fine livestock. Mr. Buckner breeds and raises the standard Percheron horses, the Shorthorn cattle, the Oxford Down sheep, and handles the better grades of hogs. He has laid out a race track for the training of his harness race horses. Mr. Buckner was one of the active organizers of the Bank of Poneto in 1912. He has always been vice president and active head of the institution. Mr. and Mrs. Buckner are members of the Chesterfield Camp of the Spiritualists in Madison County.

JOHN C. DEAM. Perhaps there is no better way for the younger generation interested in Wells County to be brought to realize what has been accomplished in the way of civilization, than to contrast conditions and opportunities that met the Deam family when they came here in 1844 and the present. They were among the early pioneers of Jefferson Township, and ever since have made their lives a useful part of this section, and have been closely identified with its development from a wilderness into a richly cultivated and enormously productive part of the county.

John C. Deam, who is one of the substantial men and representative citizens of Jefferson Township, was born in this township, July 9, 1847. His parents were James and Ruth (McDowell) Deam, natives of Pennsylvania, where the father was born in 1820 and the mother in 1822. They were young people when they came to Indiana and were married in Wells County in 1844. Nine children were born to them as follows: Elizabeth, who married Robert Crowl of Wells County, Indiana, and they now live in Kansas; John C.; Catherine, who is the widow of Alfred Mills, lives in Jefferson Township; Sarah Belle, who married Thomas Murphy of Ohio; Mary, who married George Stover, lives at Fort Wayne; Emma, who is the wife of John King of Jefferson Township; George, whose wife, Malinda Arnold, is now deceased; Adam, who married Elizabeth Bradigan, lives in Michigan; and Madison, who is deceased. The father of the above family died in January, 1884, and the mother died in February, 1886. When they came first to Jefferson Township they settled on a tract of 160 acres of wild land. James Deam worked hard until that land was cleared and somewhat improved and then bought 400 acres. To the clearing and improving of that land he devoted the rest of his active life. He possessed industry, perseverance and thrift and in the course of years accumulated large means. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church in this section.

John C. Deam has mainly spent his life in Jefferson Township and during the greater part of it has been extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is one of the large landowners in this section, his home farm, on which he settled in January, 1879, containing 240 acres, and he owns another farm of eighty acres, which is occupied by his son, Charles. The most of this land has been cleared and put under cultiva-

tion by Mr. Deam and in its fine appearance and productiveness there is evidence that the work has been done thoroughly. He has erected comfortable and substantial buildings and they add much to the air of prosperity that prevails. General farming and stockraising have been the well directed industries.

Mr. Deam was married to Miss Mary Beardsley. Her parents were Calvin and Elizabeth Beardsley, old residents of Ossian, now both deceased. The brothers and sister of Mrs. Deam were: Isadore, Augusta, Charles and Monterville, all of whom are deceased. She has one half sister and one half brother, Maud and Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Deam have eight children, namely: Grace, who is the widow of Bert Archibald, resides at Uniondale; Lulu, who is the wife of Wilson Hoopengarner of Jefferson Township; Warner, who married Ina Gay of Florida; Charles, who is a prosperous farmer in Jefferson Township, married Sarah Travis; Marion, who is principal of the Decatur High School, married Luella Nigg; Augusta, who is the wife of Homer E. Bash of Marion, Indiana; Areta, who is the wife of Vane Boon of Bluffton; and Hugh, who resides at home. The eldest child, Cressy, died at the age of five years.

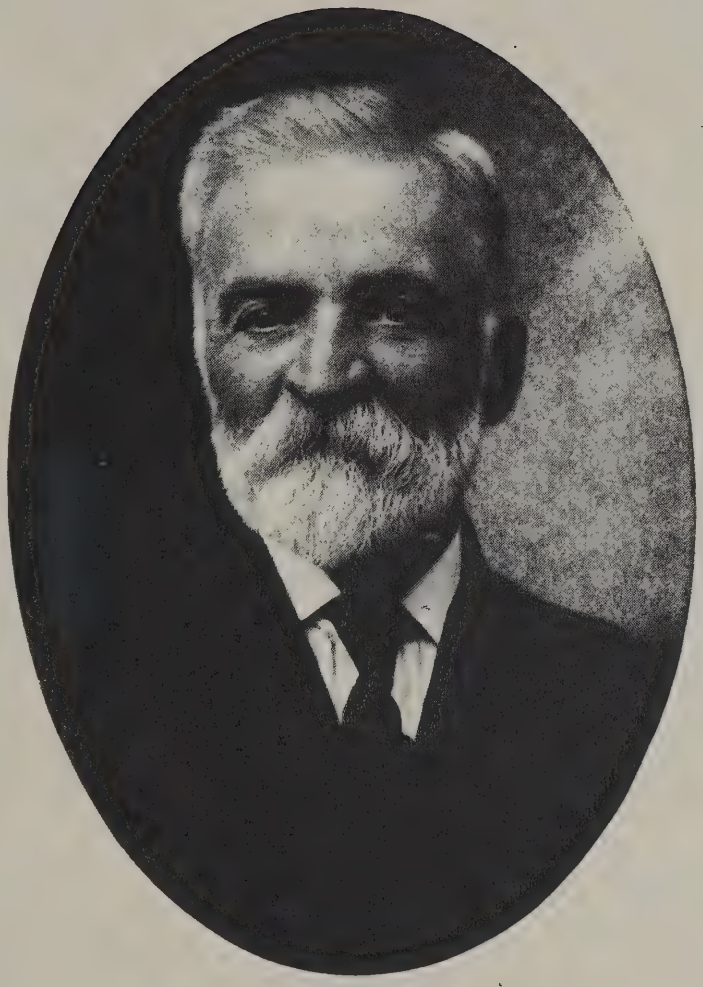
Mr. Deam is a prominent factor in the democratic party in this section and for four years has been county councilman. He is one of the directors of the Ossian State Bank, and for twenty years has been a trustee of the Presbyterian Church at Ossian. Through a long and busy life Mr. Deam has had many experiences and perhaps few are better informed concerning early days in Jefferson County.

CHRIST A. NEUENSCHWANDER. Much of the history of the village of Berne in Adams County revolves around the name and activities of Christ A. Neuenschwander. Mr. Neuenschwander has lived in that old Mennonite community of Adams County for over half a century, has been prominent in the church, moral activities and civic life, and has also supplied some of the enterprise for the business. He is one of the founders of the Bank of Berne, incorporated in 1891. He was one of the first board of directors, in 1893 was made vice president, and since October, 1906, has been president of the institution.

Mr. Neuenschwander had been a member of the Berne community about five years when, in 1871, the tracks of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway were constructed through Adams County. In August of that year the first town lot was sold, the purchaser being T. P. Harris, who erected a frame building 20x45 feet, part of which was used for a general store and part for a residence. At that time Mr. Neuenschwander was employed as a cheese maker at a factory about a mile from Berne. He remembers when the first train ran over the railroad, consisting of one freight car and one passenger car, drawn by a locomotive burning wood as fuel. He personally knew both the conductor and engineer.

In 1872 Mr. Neuenschwander moved to the village, and with others established a general store on the present site of the People's State Bank. This store flourished and developed a large trade throughout the country. In 1880 Mr. Neuenschwander bought a farm of eighty acres south of the village limits, put on most of the improvements and by the purchase of an additional forty acres developed a good farm in that community. To this he gave much of his time and energies until December, 1915, when he retired to his present home in the village of Berne. In 1904 Mr. Neuenschwander became a stockholder in the local electric light plant and since 1905 has been one of its directors.

Like many other pioneer families of this part of Adams County Mr.



C. A. NEUENSCHWANDER

Neuenschwander is a native of Switzerland. He was born in Canton Berne on the ridge of the Jura Mountains August 21, 1849. He has an authentic record of six generations of the family history in the old country. These various families, including his grandfather, spent all their lives in Switzerland. They early became identified with the Mennonite Church. Mr. Neuenschwander is a son of Abraham and Catherine (Zurfluh) Neuenschwander. He was the oldest of their children and the only one still living when, in 1852, the little family embarked on a small sailing vessel at Havre, France, with about fifty other Swiss colonists. For forty-three days they were driving across the ocean waves and finally landed at New York, going on to Wayne County, Ohio. They left Switzerland March 4, 1852, and were two months and two days in reaching Ohio. In Wayne County the Neuenschwanders lived for only a few months, and then went to Riley Township of Putnam County, Ohio. On a farm there the mother died in 1865 at the age of thirty-eight. In 1866 Abraham Neuenschwander brought his children to Adams County locating on a farm in Monroe Township. Here he spent the remainder of his long career and died in January, 1904, when nearly seventy-four years of age. As a citizen he began voting as a democrat but later became a republican.

Christ A. Neuenschwander married a neighbor girl in Adams County, Miss Anna Stauffer. She was born in Monroe Township of Adams County in 1855, a daughter of Christian and Verena (Habegger) Stauffer. Her father was born in Alsace and her mother in Switzerland. Both had been married before and, as widow and widower, they were married in Adams County. After their marriage they settled on a 160 acre farm which they cleared up, and the father died in Monroe Township in January, 1892, when nearly ninety years of age. His widow survived him some time and was seventy-four when she passed away. Both were birthright members of the Mennonite Church. Mrs. Neuenschwander was one of twins and of a family of six children, all now married and having children of their own.

Mr. and Mrs. Neuenschwander were married in the fall of 1875. Most of their children are now in independent activities and have homes of their own. Their names are: Ella, Menno, Elmer, Wesley, Leon, Meta, Selma, and Edna. All are active members of the Mennonite Church. Mr. Neuenschwander has been a deacon of the church for twenty years, and since December, 1877, has served as secretary of the Sunday school. In matters of politics he is independent.

Irvin W. Wasson, vice president and acting cashier of the State Bank of Tocsin, is not only a native son of Wells County, but is member of a family that has lived here from pioneer times, a period of over three-quarters of a century.

The Wassons are of Irish ancestry. The great-grandfather was Alexander Wasson, who spent all his life in Ireland. A son of Alexander, George, grandfather of the Tocsin banker, was born in Ireland and married there Sarah Ash. About 1829 they came to the United States, and after a brief residence in Stark County moved to Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1841 brought their family to Wells County, Indiana, and established a wilderness home in section 11 of Lancaster Township. George Wasson also entered 160 acres of government land in section 1 of Lancaster Township. He endured all the privations and hardships of the real pioneer. He acquired a large amount of property, all of which represented the fruits of his own labors. He has been characterized as a splendid manager, a man of strong personality and thoroughly respected for honesty and integrity. He was an active mem-

ber and supporter of the United Presbyterian Church. His useful life terminated in death in 1855. He was survived by a widow and five children, and his widow passed away in 1895 at the advanced age of ninety years. Their children were named John, Eliza J., Isabella, James and Thomas M.

James Wasson, father of Irvin W., was born in Wayne County, Ohio, April 2, 1841, and was about six months old when his parents came to Wells County, Indiana. He grew up in the woods, in a log cabin home, and became experienced in all the arts and crafts of the pioneer days. He attended subscription schools, and spent a wholesome, vigorous youth. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G of the 101st Indiana Infantry. He made a most creditable record while in the army. In the first engagement in which he participated, March 20, 1863, in Tennessee, he was struck in the leg by a musket ball and was in a hospital recovering from the wound for two months. After rejoining his command he was in the campaigns through Eastern Tennessee, and at Chickamauga was again wounded and was captured by the enemy. He was a prisoner at Richmond, Virginia, forty days until exchanged, and was unable to rejoin his command until February, 1864. He received his honorable discharge in June, 1864. On account of the wounds received in the army he was unfitted for the duties of a farmer after returning home, and after a period of attendance at school he became a teacher and for eight years devoted most of his time to educational work.

In 1871, after his marriage, he moved to a farm in Lancaster Township, and in the course of years made that one of the most beautiful and attractive places of its size in the county. He cleared about fifty acres, introduced a thorough system of drainage, and proved himself a most capable and methodical agriculturist. His first home there, erected in 1874, was destroyed by fire in 1895, and was replaced by one of the most complete and convenient country homes in the township. He also built large barns and always kept pace with every step of progress in farming and stock raising. As a democrat he became active in local affairs, served several years as assessor and also a trustee of Lancaster Township. He became affiliated with the Grand Army Post at Bluffton and he and his wife were prominent members of the United Brethren Church.

James Wasson married November 16, 1870, Miss Sarah Sweeney. She was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 12, 1845, daughter of Robert and Sarah Sweeney, natives of Pennsylvania. Her father died in Ohio, July 30, 1858, and her mother in 1860. Mrs. James Wasson, who was one of a large family of thirteen children, was well educated and at the age of nineteen began work as a teacher and taught for six years in Wayne and Knox Counties, Ohio. In 1868 she came to visit her sister in Wells County, Indiana, and from that time until her marriage taught in Lancaster Township, and while teaching became acquainted with Mr. James Wasson, who was also then a teacher. Mr. and Mrs. James Wasson both taught school in one of the districts of Lancaster Township, and two of their sons were teachers in the same place. They became the parents of three children: Margaret A., who was born on December 18, 1871, and is the widow of Frank Garton; George R., born July 6, 1875, and Irvin W.

Irvin W. Wasson was born in Lancaster Township, November 23, 1878. He grew up in a home of culture and of high ideals, gained a good education, and for a time was a teacher. Subsequently he took up farming, and he still owns forty acres of land in Lancaster Township, which he bought in 1900. In 1901 Mr. Wasson left farming and entered the hardware business for eighteen months. In January, 1911, he en-

gaged in the banking business at Tocsin and has since been vice president and acting cashier of the State Bank of that town.

On August 21, 1901, Mr. Wasson married Miss Etta Sowards, who was born in Wells County. She has a brother, James, who married Ida Schaffer, and a sister, Minnie, wife of William Kleinknecht of Lancaster Township. Mr. and Mrs. Wasson have three children: Wendell J., aged thirteen; Opal, aged six; and Gladys, aged three years.

William R. Smith is a native of Wells County, a farmer by training and early experience, and is now doing much to make successful the Poneto Farmers Elevator Company, of which he is active manager. This is an incorporated business, and some of the best known citizens of Poneto are connected with it as officers and stockholders. The president is J. P. Munsey; vice president, T. F. Shoemaker; treasurer, J. W. Cook; secretary, W. A. Huffman, and the directors are H. B. Lancaster, Jesse Heman, J. W. Wells, T. F. Grove and E. N. Castle.

Mr. Smith was born on a farm a half mile north of Poneto, November 20, 1873, a son of Benjamin P. and Eliza (Davenport) Smith. His father was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 25, 1839, a son of Simon B. and Martha A. (Hoskinson) Smith. Simon B. Smith was a native of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and at an early age accompanied his mother and stepfather to Ohio and subsequently, after reaching his majority, came into the wilderness of Wells County, Indiana, and bought land in Section 31 of Harrison Township. He settled there with his family in 1844. The land was all in the woods, and it was only after many years of heavy toil that he cleared up and developed his quarter section. He lived there until his death in 1888, his wife passing away in 1891. Simon Smith was a democrat, filled the office of justice of the peace many years, and bore a reputation for sterling integrity and very thorough business ability. By trade he was a blacksmith. He was very active in the United Brethren Church. The ten children of his family were: Sarah, Benjamin P., Michael, William, Phoebe, Louisa, Fred, Minerva, Elzina and Simon.

Benjamin P. Smith was five years of age when his parents arrived in Wells County on October 18, 1844. He grew up on the old homestead, cultivated his mind and body by the heavy work of the woods and the fields, and attended some of the old time subscription schools. In 1870 he married Eliza Davenport, who was born in Wells County in 1851, and was a woman of excellent education and had been a school teacher before her marriage. Benjamin P. Smith spent his last days in Oklahoma, where he died January 25, 1908. The mother died August 12, 1908. She was a native of Chester Township of Wells County.

William R. Smith is the only living child of his parents. His sister, Martha, was born in 1876 and died in 1881. Mr. Smith grew up on the home farm, attended the local schools, and was a progressive and successful farmer on the old homestead until he was thirty-three years of age. He then entered business in connection with the Farmers Elevator Company at Poneto, and now gives practically all his time to the buying and handling of the immense quantities of grain that go to market through that institution.

Mr. Smith married Mary E. Huffman, who was reared and educated in this county and is a daughter of William and Mary E. (Barton) Huffman. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one daughter, Ruth, born May 21, 1902, and now a student in the Bluffton High School. Mr. Smith is affiliated with Poneto Lodge No. 752, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the Encampment at Bluffton, and is a past noble grand, past chief patriarch of the order. Politically he is a democrat.

GEORGE F. CHRISTMAN. Closely identified with the agricultural and industrial affairs of Wells County, George F. Christman is pleasantly located in Liberty Township, where he is profitably engaged in general farming on the old Christman estate, which he is managing with ability and success. His parents, Frederick and Catherine (Grossman) Christman, were born and bred in Germany, and from there came to the United States, settling in Bluffton.

Frederick Christman served an apprenticeship at the baker's trade in the fatherland, and after coming to Bluffton was employed as a baker. Beginning life in this new home without other means than strong hands, a willing heart, and an unlimited amount of courage and energy, he labored with a will, and by means of thrift accumulated considerable wealth. When able to afford it, he erected the Christman Block, just east of the McFarren Block, and there successfully conducted a bakery and a restaurant for many years, continuing in business in Bluffton until his death. He also made other wise investments, including the purchase of the farm in Liberty Township, now occupied by his son, George. His wife survived him, dying at the home of her son, George. They were the parents of three children, as follows: Frank, living in Indianapolis; John, who died in 1885; and George F.

Brought up in Bluffton, George F. Christman was educated in the public schools, and as a young man assisted in the improvement of the farm which he now occupies. After his marriage, he assumed the management of its 120 acres, and is now carrying on general farming in a systematic and scientific manner, under his judicious care his land being as rich and productive as any to be found in the locality.

On October 2, 1882, Mr. Christman was united in marriage with Mary A. Masterson. A daughter of William and Maria (Paron) Masterson, she was born, February 28, 1863, in Harrison Township, Wells County, her home having been near Murray. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Christman, five children have been born, of whom one, the fourth child in succession of birth, is dead, and four are living, namely: Maude, at home; Jennie, wife of V. O. Bender, living on the home farm; Hazel, at home; and Chloe, also at home. In his political affiliations Mr. Christman is a steadfast democrat.

GEORGE T. WOODWARD. One of the early families to settle in Wells County was one that came from Trumbull County, Ohio, named Woodward, and this family has been continuously identified with the best interests of Jefferson Township for the past sixty-three years. The present head of the family is George T. Woodward, who is one of the successful farmers and representative citizens of this section.

George T. Woodward was born on his present farm in Jefferson Township, October 26, 1855. His parents were A. W. and Mary (Brickley) Woodward, who were born, reared and married in Trumbull County, Ohio. In 1850 they came to Indiana and settled on a tract of eighty acres, near Greenwood. The land had been partly cleared and Mr. Woodward completed the clearing, but in 1854 sold to another settler and moved to another farm in Jefferson Township, Wells County. For a number of years hard work burdened him, but he was a man of great industry and he persevered until his fine estate was not only cleared, but well improved. Mr. and Mrs. Woodward were widely known and highly esteemed. Their last days were spent in great comfort with children and grandchildren around them. Mr. Woodward died July 18, 1906, his wife having passed away in March, 1898. The following children were born to them: Loretta, who is the wife of George Wasson of Union Township, Wells County; Olive Orlina, who

became the wife of William Beatty of Ossian, Indiana; Laura, who was married first to William Wilkin, and second, to Dr. William Beatty; George T.; Samantha E., who married L. T. Fryback; William, who married Mary J. Goshorn; John, who married Dora McBride, and they live in Union Township; Wilson A., who married Ella Somers, is a farmer in Jefferson Township; and Alda, who is the wife of E. E. Derr of Ossian, Indiana.

George T. Woodward was reared on the old homestead which is now his own property. He obtained his education in the schools of Jefferson Township and has always taken a great interest in the same and has given his own children school advantages in District No. 13, Jefferson Township. His life work has been carrying on farm industries on the homestead, which he inherited when his father died. He owns 160 acres, which he devotes to general farming and stock raising. He as made many excellent improvements, in the way of commodious and substantial buildings, and an air of thrift prevails that indicates good management. Mr. Woodward was married in December, 1879, to Miss Mary J. Glass, who is a daughter of James W. and Rebecca Glass, for many years people of prominence in Wells County. The father of Mrs. Woodward came with his family to this county in 1845 and lived here until his death, on March 14, 1909. He, like the Woodwards, was identified with the development of this section. His wife, the mother of Mrs. Woodward, died January 11, 1880. They had children as follows: Mary J., who is Mrs. Woodward; Dorcas; Jennie, who is deceased; Catherine, who married Horace Henry; James, who married Ida Archibald; Frank, who married Cora McBride; and Marion.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodward have eight children, namely: Clinton, who lives in Jefferson Township, married Eva Mills; Alva, who is a resident of Wolf Lake, Indiana, married Lucile Foster; Irene, who lives at Decatur, Michigan, is the wife of Gilpin Osborn, who is in business there; Dorcas, who is the wife of Jesse Newhard, living in Georgia; Alice, who is the wife of Hassel Mahnensmith; Annis, who is the wife of Edgar Hunter of Jefferson Township; Alda, who is a student in the Indiana State University; and Roscoe, at home. Mr. Woodward and family are members of the Presbyterian Church, and they are not only active in their church connection, but also in the pleasant neighborhood social life, where good feeling and hospitality prevail. Mr. Woodward has always given his political support to the principles and candidates of the democratic party.

Patrick Curran. Busily employed in one of the most important of all occupations, Patrick Curran, a well-known farmer of Liberty Township, Wells County, has displayed excellent judgment in his undertakings, and in addition to being a successful tiller of the soil is profitably engaged in stock raising. A son of John and Elizabeth (Fling) Curran, he was born April 22, 1852, in Hocking County, Ohio, of Irish ancestry.

His grandfather, Michael Curran, was born and reared in Ireland. After his marriage, he came with his wife to the United States, locating first in Pennsylvania. Migrating to Ohio a few years later, he settled permanently in Perry County, and there continued a resident the remainder of his life.

Born in Pennsylvania, John Curran grew to manhood in Perry County, Ohio, where he began the battle of life as a tiller of the soil. After his marriage to Elizabeth Fling, he bought land in Hocking County, Ohio, and on the homestead which he cleared and improved spent his remaining days. He was the father of fifteen children, of

whom the following named are now, in 1917, living: John, of Ohio; Patrick, of whom we write; Mary, living in Ohio; Douglas, of Columbus, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Daniel Harsch of Lancaster Township, Wells County; Francis M. of Hocking County, Ohio; James, residing in Ohio; and Alexander of Hocking County, Ohio.

Brought up in his native county, Patrick Curran was educated in the district schools, and until twenty-one years of age remained beneath the parental roof-tree. Finding employment then on a near-by farm, he worked for one man for five years, a record of service bearing evidence of his industry and fidelity. About three years after his marriage, Mr. Curran came to Indiana in search of a favorable place in which to invest his hard-earned savings. Locating in Wells County, he bought eighty acres of land in Liberty Township, and immediately assumed its possession. The major part of it was heavily timbered at the time, but by energetic and well-directed toil he has since cleared and improved his present handsome estate, and is prosperously engaged in farming and stock raising.

Mr. Curran married, September 28, 1876, Margaret Eckhart, a native of Hocking County, Ohio, and into their home two children have been born, namely: Charles, who married Maggie Laudermilk, has nine children, Thelma, Vaughn, Devona, Harold, Neoma, Waneta, Jannette, Mildred, and Mary; and Orpha, a pupil in the Liberty Center High School. Charles is manager of an elevator in Liberty Center. Politically Mr. Curran is an earnest supporter of the principles of the democratic party. Fraternally he belongs to Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Curran are members of the Methodist Protestant Church at Liberty Center.

N. E. Wait. A well-known and respected citizen of Liberty Township, Wells County, N. E. Wait is a representative agriculturist of this section of the state, his fine and well appointed farm giving substantial evidence of the excellent care and skill with which it is managed, and of the thrift and prosperity of its owner. A son of William Wait, he was born in Pulaski County, Indiana, June 2, 1854, and was there bred and educated.

William Wait was born and reared in Ohio. Coming from there to Indiana in 1841, he took up a homestead claim in Pulaski County, and in the years that followed cleared and improved the farm upon which he and his wife spent their last years. He married, in Pulaski County, Susan Justice, a native of Pennsylvania, and of their five children three are living, as follows: Jennie A., wife of Ira Maddox of Marshal County, Indiana; Mary L., wife of Joseph Brooks of Starke County, Indiana; and N. E., the special subject of this brief sketch.

After completing his studies in the public schools, N. E. Wait worked with his father on the home farm, and finding the occupation congenial to his tastes, as well as profitable, he concluded to adopt it, and began his career as a farmer in Miami County. He subsequently spent a year in North Dakota, but not liking the country, Mr. Wait returned to Indiana, and settled in Wells County. After living for awhile on the first farm that he bought, he sold out, and bought ninety-two acres of land in Liberty Township, and in its improvement has taken much pride and pleasure, his estate in its appointments and improvements comparing favorably with any in the locality.

Mr. Wait married Emma Sands, who was born in Pennsylvania, but was brought up in Pulaski County, Indiana, where her parents settled when she was a girl. Mr. and Mrs. Wait have three children, namely: William H., living at home; Calvert, who is married, and lives at Fort

Wayne; and Jesse D., also married, and a resident of Fort Wayne. Politically Mr. Wait is a republican, and religiously he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

ERNEST E. THOMPSON. Numbered among the progressive agriculturists of Wells County, Ernest E. Thompson of Liberty Township is the owner of a fine and well-appointed farm, which is now in an admirable state of cultivation, and, owing to the sound judgment and persistent energy with which he has devoted himself to its management, is a valuable piece of property. He is a native, and to the "manner born," his birth having occurred November 11, 1869, on the farm of his father, Robert H. Thompson.

His paternal grandfather, John H. Thompson, was born in Virginia, where his father, Ebenezer Thompson, located on coming to America from Scotland, his native country. He married Mary Thompson, who was born in Kentucky, a daughter of James Thompson, a native of Virginia. A few years after his marriage, he came with his family to Indiana, and having entered from the Government 320 acres of land in Huntington County, was there actively engaged in its improvement until his death. He reared twelve children, of whom Robert H. was the fifth son in succession of birth, and the seventh child.

Robert H. Thompson was born January 10, 1840, in Bracken County, Kentucky, and at the age of eight months was brought by his parents to Huntington County, Indiana, where he was reared and educated. He assisted his father during the days of his boyhood and youth in clearing the home farm, remaining beneath the parental roof tree until the outbreak of the Civil war.

Enlisting, August 28, 1861, in Company C, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Robert H. Thompson went with his regiment to Camp Wickliffe, Kentucky, from there proceeding to New Madrid, Missouri. He was subsequently sent with his command to Reddlesport, and was later located in Memphis, Tennessee. Unfortunate enough to lose his eye-sight, he spent ten months in the Good Samaritan Eye and Ear Sanitarium, at St. Louis, and on leaving that institution went to Jefferson Barracks, where, on April 4, 1864, he was honorably discharged from the service. The ensuing three years, being unable to pursue any vocation, he remained at home. Recovering his health, he came, soon after his marriage, to Wells County, settling in Liberty Township, where he purchased a tract of heavily timbered land, and at once began its improvement. He succeeded well in his efforts, by dint of hard labor converting his many acres into one of the best farms of the township, and also becoming owner, by purchase, of two other valuable tracts of land. Since retiring from active pursuits, he has made his home in Warren, Indiana, where he is now enjoying a well-earned leisure. He is a stanch republican in politics, and a member of the Christian Church, to which his wife also belonged.

Robert H. Thompson married, February 20, 1867, Eliza C. Stroup, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Oldaper) Stroup, who came from Highland County, Ohio, to Indiana in 1842, and settled in Huntington County. She was born in Salmon Township, Huntington County, Indiana, and died September 10, 1910, in Liberty Township. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Laura G., deceased; Ernest E., the subject of this brief sketch; Alfred P.; Annie M., deceased; John J., deceased; Arman E., deceased; and Robert M., deceased.

Brought up on the home farm, and educated in the district schools, Ernest E. Thompson has succeeded to the ancestral occupation. Prosperity has seemingly smiled on his every effort, his farm of 262 acres

being advantageously located in Liberty Township, where he has spent his entire life.

Mr. Thompson married, May 2, 1891, Etta M. Burman, a daughter of George W. Burman of Warren, Indiana. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, namely; Mabel, a graduate of the Liberty Center High School, is the wife of Don G. Merriman; Chester, also a graduate of Liberty Center High School; Beulah, a high school student; and Kenneth. Having never swerved from the political faith in which he was reared, Mr. Thompson is a straight-forward republican. He is serving as a deacon in the Baptist Church, of which both he and his wife are consistent members. Fraternally Mr. Thompson is a member of Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Joseph W. Warner has actively followed the vocation of farming for a great many years, and represents a family name that has been identified with Wells County seventy-five years. Mr. Warner's fine country home is in section 26, Harrison Township, on Rural Route No. 2 out of Bluffton.

He was born on the same section September 26, 1863, a son of Amos and Martha E. (Cabburn) Warner. His father was born near Circleville, Ohio, in 1840, and was brought by his parents to Wells County, Indiana, in 1842. He became a man of property and of influence and lived a long and active career until his death in April, 1913. He was active in the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church and served as superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary for two years, 1871-72. His wife was born on section 26 of Harrison Township and died April 11, 1893. Their two children were Joseph W. and Sarah E., now deceased, who was Mrs. Lewis Arnold.

Joseph W. Warner grew up on the old homestead farm, attended the common schools of Bluffton, spent two years in the Portland Normal School in 1887-88 and completed the course in oratory. His early ambition was to become a lawyer, but circumstances and other things caused him eventually to settle down to farming, and in that vocation he has made an honorable success. Mr. Warner has done much in the breeding of Chester White and Poland China hogs, and also handles a number of Durham cattle. His farm comprises 121 acres of land.

He married Miss Emma Myers, daughter of J. C. Myers. She was educated in the district schools of the county. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Warner settled down to farming on the home where they still live. Five children were born to them: Howard, Clarence, Lelia, Earl and Mary. Howard is now a locomotive fireman with a run out of Chicago over the Baltimore & Ohio Road. Clarence has finished his education in the common schools, while the other children are still attending school.

Mr. Warner has done much in behalf of the democratic party in Wells County and has been called upon as a speaker and has made campaign addresses in nearly every locality of the county. At one time he was a candidate for representative in the Legislature.

John W. Bay. Owning and occupying a well improved farm in Liberty Township, John W. Bay has been intimately associated with the agricultural affairs of this part of Wells County for many years, and since attaining manhood has contributed, as a successful farmer, his full share toward the welfare of the community in which he has spent his life, his birth having occurred here September 11, 1861.

William H. Bay, his father, a native of Indiana, came to Wells County in early manhood, and engaged in farming. After his marriage he bought land in Liberty Township, and immediately began the improvement of the estate now owned and occupied by his son John. Successful as an agriculturist, he remained here, an esteemed and respected citizen until his death in 1901. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane Shoemaker, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, and as a girl came with her parents to Liberty Township, Wells County, where she married. She passed to the life beyond on August 2, 1917. They were the parents of eight children, namely: John W., the special subject of this brief sketch; Rosa, wife of George Rife, of Bluffton, Wells County; Mollie, wife of John Gordon; Charles, of Bluffton; Lydia, wife of Charles B. Gavin, of Liberty Township; Edward H., of the same township; Rachel; and Rebecca, wife of Charles Dalrymple.

Brought up on the parental homestead, John W. Bay received ample opportunities for obtaining a good common school education, and after completing his studies assisted his father in the management of the farm, which he subsequently rented for a few years. Finding the occupation congenial as well as profitable, Mr. Bay has continued a tiller of the soil. He is a skillful and practical farmer, systematic and thorough in his methods, and, needless to say, is quite prosperous. He is a loyal republican in politics, and fraternally is a member of Bluffton Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose.

Mr. Bay married Effie J. Thompson, and they have one child, Henrietta R., wife of Marion C. Bohr. Mr. and Mrs. Bohr are living with Mr. Bay; they are the parents of four children, John, Russell, Ruth and Catherine.

Frank C. Garrett has long enjoyed a substantial position in the community of Liberty Township of Wells County, where he has spent practically all the years of his life, and in the last ten or fifteen years especially has become more than locally known as a successful breeder and raiser of the big type of Poland China hogs. He has a fine farm, well adapted for his special purposes of stock raising.

Mr. Garrett was born on a farm in Liberty Township July 11, 1866, a son of Noah and Leah (Funk) Garrett. His father was in many ways a distinguished citizen of Wells County. Born in Mahoning County, Ohio, December 17, 1839, oldest son of Joseph Garrett, he had only the advantages of the common schools and at the age of sixteen began learning the carpenter's trade. His apprenticeship consisted of six years, after which he became successful as a contractor and builder. In January, 1861, he removed to Indiana, and a year of so later brought his family to Wells County. On December 25, 1860, he married Miss Leah Funk, of Wayne County, Ohio, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Rouch) Funk. On coming to Wells County Noah Garrett bought eighty acres of timber land for $800. He paid $300 in cash and employed himself at his trade to pay the balance. For a number of years he continued farming in connection with his mechanical industry, and as his resources and experience grew likewise his success seemed to multiply. He was a splendid judge of live stock, very capable in handling them, and in the course of time he had a farm of 330 acres, all highly improved. For a brief time he served in the Civil war, enlisting October 30, 1864, in Company A of the Fifty-third Indiana Infantry. He saw some of the hard fighting toward the close of Sherman's brilliant campaign through Georgia and the Carolinas, and was a participant in the battles of Kingston and Goldsboro, North Carolina. He remained with the army until the surrender of Johnston's army, and was honorably discharged at Louis-

ville, Kentucky, July 21, 1865. Noah Garrett was an active republican and he and his wife were members of the Baptist Church. For a number of years he was a member of the Shorthorn Association of Wells County. He and his wife had four children: I. V. Lester, deceased; Alice, wife of Alonzo F. Rittenhouse; Frank C., and Walter O., of Liberty Center, Indiana.

Frank C. Garrett grew up on a farm adjoining the one which he now owns, acquired his education in the local district schools, and since attaining manhood has found his energies fully employed with his business as a farmer and stockman. He followed the example of his father as a factor in the livestock industry, and for the past fifteen years has specialized with high grade Poland China hogs. Every year he has had a sale of his animals, and from these fifteen sales his stock has been distributed and served to raise the standard of good swine industry throughout this section of Indiana. Mr. Garrett is a stockholder in the Keystone Bank and is a director in the Farmers Insurance Company. His farm comprises 120 acres in Liberty Township. Mr. Garrett is a republican in politics, and he and his family are members of the Baptist Church in Liberty Center.

On January 31, 1888, he married Miss Elizabeth Boltin. She was born in Liberty Township of Wells County. Mrs. Garrett is the daughter of Wm. J. and Mary A. (Richardson) Boltin. The mother was born in Ohio and the father in Wells County, Indiana. Mr. Boltin died September, 1914, aged seventy-three years. His wife is living, being sixty-nine years of age, at Liberty Center, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett have had five children, namely: Lola M., wife of H. H. Ellis; Alonzo B., who is married and living in Huntington County, Indiana; Flo, who died at the age of three and a half years; N. Mount, and Mary A.

James A. Brotherton. Widely known and highly respected, not only as a representative agriculturist of Wells County, but as a veteran of the Civil war, James A. Brotherton, of Liberty Township, owns and occupies an attractive and well-cultivated farm lying one mile south and one mile east of Liberty Center. A son of John Brotherton, he was born in Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 23, 1842.

John Brotherton, a native of North Carolina, was taken by his parents to Ohio when young, and there grew up and was educated. Soon after his marriage he bought land in Darke County, that state, and for several seasons was employed as a tiller of the soil. Disposing of his Ohio property, he came to Indiana and bought 180 acres of land in Chester Township, Wells County, where he lived for fifteen years. Selling out then, he went to Wisconsin on a prospecting trip, and on the way home died, his death occurring at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He married, in Ohio, Mary West, who was born in Kentucky. She accompanied him to Wisconsin, and after his death she returned to Wells County and spent her last years in this locality.

In early manhood, James A. Brotherton, inspired by patriotic ardor, enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served bravely for four years, five months and twenty days. Taking part in many battles, he was twice slightly wounded, first at Port Gibson and later at Champion Hill. On February 3, 1866, at Brownsville, Texas, he was mustered out of service. Returning home, Mr. Brotherton began his career as an agriculturist, and is now the owner of a well-tilled and productive farm of ninety-nine acres, well located in Liberty Township, as previously mentioned.

On December 27, 1868, Mr. Brotherton married Elizabeth Penrod, a native of Wells County, Indiana, and of the three children born of

their union, none is now living. Politically Mr. Brotherton is a republican, and socially he is a member of Lew Daily Post No. 33, Grand Army of the Republic, an organization in which he is much interested.

SAMUEL J. JACKSON. This is the name of one of the oldest residents of Liberty Township, Wells County. The Jackson family have been here fully eighty years. It would be a difficult matter to estimate and appreciate all the substantial work accomplished by a single family of such industrious people as the Jacksons in four-score years. Many acres of land were cleared of timber and brush. Lowlands were drained, the soil was made to produce the crops which sustained mankind, homes have been built, and innumerable other services have gone into the composite activities which make Wells County what it is today.

The old home of Samuel J. Jackson is a mile north of Liberty Center. He was born three miles east of Muncie in Delaware County, Indiana, January 4, 1834, a son of James and Elizabeth (Hooker) Jackson. James Jackson was born in Stokes County, North Carolina, a son of Samuel and Hannah (Gibson) Jackson, both of whom spent their lives in Stokes County. That interesting section of western North Carolina furnished a large migration to the northwest and particularly to Indiana in the early part of the last century. From his home on the eastern side of the Alleghenies James Jackson came first to Ohio, married near Dayton, and from there moved into Delaware County, and in January, 1837, arrived in Wells County, locating in Liberty Township. Here in the wilderness he entered a half section of land, built a log cabin and undertook all the work and the experiences which were part of pioneer life in this county. James Jackson died in Wells County December 8, 1853, and his wife in 1865. They had nine children, six sons and three daughters, of whom Samuel J. is the only one now living, and he has long since passed the age of four-score. He was just three years of age when the family moved to Wells County, and his first recollections are of this region when few people were living here and when it was a strictly pioneer country. Doubtless his recollections extend back over a longer period than any other living resident. There was no transportation except by road through the woods for years after he came, and he was a mature man when the first railroad was built through this county. As a boy his advantages were only those of the subscription schools. In 1856 he made an interesting trip to what was then the far west, to the territory of Nebraska, which then occupied a large place in the public mind because of the struggle over the Kansas-Nebraska bill which was soon to precipitate civil war. He remained in the west only about nine months, and then returned to Wells County and on October 29, 1857, married Miss Sarah Foust. She is a sister of Adam Foust of Warren, Indiana. Mrs. Jackson was born in Highland County, Ohio, April 9, 1834, a daughter of Jonathan and Anna Foust.

In November, 1857, after his marriage, Mr. Jackson settled on a farm in Liberty Township, and then followed many industrious years of toil and enterprise as a farmer and also as a merchant and man of affairs in and around Liberty Center. In 1862 he responded to the needs of his country and enlisted in Company E of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry. He remained in service practically three years until the close of the war, and was mustered out at Washington in June, 1865. He and his good wife became the parents of nine children, and five are still living, James N., Amos L., Charles W., Rachel R. and Ida. The family are all members of the Christian Church at Warren, and Samuel J. Jackson has steadily supported republican candidates and principles since the formation of the party back in 1856.

James U. Jackson, his son, is a prominent business man of Liberty Center and for many years has been the leading lumberman of that locality. He was born in Liberty Township October 13, 1858, grew up on a farm until he was past fourteen years of age, at which date his father bought a store at Liberty Center. Mr. Jackson worked in the store while attending school. He finished his education in the Bluffton Normal, and for two terms was a teacher in Liberty Township. For a long period of years he has been a lumber dealer at Liberty Center, but has many other interests. He has a farm of eighty acres, and is one of the directors of the Liberty Center Deposit Bank.

On January 16, 1892, Mr. Jackson married Sabina W. Smith. They have five children: Cecil W., who is married and lives in Liberty Center; Paul C., unmarried, and now attending an aviation school at Austin, Texas; Ethel, at home; Charles W., in the United States army service at Camp Grant, Illinois, and Ruth, at home. The family are members of the Baptist Church and Mr. Jackson is one of its trustees. Politically he has always supported the principles and policies of the republican party.

William H. Thompson. Actively and industriously engaged in the prosecution of a calling upon which not only our own country, but nations abroad are largely dependent, William H. Thompson is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Wells County, having a well improved and well managed farm in Liberty Township. A native of Indiana, he was born in Henry County, December 14, 1853, coming of old Virginia stock on both sides of the house.

His father, Nathan Thompson, was born and reared in Virginia. Following the march of civilization westward, he came with his young wife to Indiana soon after his marriage, and after living a while in Henry County located in Wells County, where he remained until the close of the Civil war, in which he served for a year, belonging to an Indiana regiment. He then spent a short time in Henry County, but returned to Wells County and engaged in general farming. He died at the Soldiers' Home, in Marion, Indiana. He married Amanda Showalter, a native of Virginia, and to them eight children were born, as follows: William H., of this brief sketch; Bathena Ellen, wife of Thomas McCormack; J. Henry, living in Michigan; Effie Jane, wife of Edward Smith, of Warren, Indiana; Charles Franklin, of Illinois, and three children that have passed to the life beyond.

Brought up in Wells County, William H. Thompson obtained his early education in the district schools, and early in life engaged in farming. He began farming for himself in Harrison Township, Wells County, but subsequently bought forty acres of land in Liberty Township, where he has since been pleasantly and profitably engaged in agricultural pursuits, making a specialty of truck farming in which he is an expert.

Mr. Thompson married, February 15, 1874, Mary B. Sark. She was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, October 3, 1855, a daughter of Jacob Sark who came with his family to Wells County, this state, in 1864, settling in Nottingham Township. Nine children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, namely: Cora Alice, wife of William Timmons; Bruce A., of St. Louis, Missouri; William Edward, living in Kansas; Fred A., of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Verna M., living at Fort Wayne; Elyie E., also of Fort Wayne; Bessie B., wife of Raymond Kiser, of Michigan; Arlie C., deceased, and Della, who died in childhood. Politically Mr. Thompson is identified with the republican party. Religiously both he and his wife are members of the German

Reformed Church at Bluffton. Fraternally he belongs to Bluffton Lodge, Improved Order of Red Men.

GEORGE W. GOODSPEED has handled his affairs as a farmer and business man with good judgment and in the course of many years has developed a fine farm and made himself a citizen of substance and influence in Wells County. His present farm of 193 acres is three miles southwest of Bluffton on Rural Route No. 7. Mr. Goodspeed grows all the staple crops of this region and has also made it a point to keep good grades of live stock, which supply the chief revenue from his business.

He was born in Athens County, Ohio, January 12, 1861, a son of Ira B. and Harriet (Armitage) Goodspeed.

Ira B. Goodspeed, one of the prominent old time citizens of Wells County, was born in Athens County, Ohio, April 13, 1827, a son of Nathan and Thankful (Holwey) Goodspeed, both natives of Massachusetts. Nathan Goodspeed was born June 9, 1795, and was the pioneer settler in southern Ohio. About the close of the Civil war Nathan Goodspeed came to Wells County, and died there January 7, 1866. His wife passed away August 19, 1874. Ira B. Goodspeed grew up on a farm in Ohio, and on March 25, 1860, married Miss Harriet N. Armitage, a native of Athens County and a daughter of George and Maria (Ward) Armitage, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Washington County, Ohio. Ira Goodspeed continued farming in his native county after his marriage until the fall of 1865, when he followed his parents to Wells County and bought eighty acres of the land now occupied by his son George W. After about two years he moved to Nathan Goodspeed's old farm and took care of his widowed mother. Later he bought the 120 acres of the old farm from the other heirs and developed that into a high class farm. This old home was in section 18 of Harrison Township. Ira B. Goodspeed and wife had three sons and one daughter: Thankful O., who died February 14, 1873, at the age of twenty-three; George W.; Francis M., a farmer in Liberty Township, who married Hannah Bell Markley, and Daniel, of Bluffton.

George W. Goodspeed has lived in Wells County since he was about four years of age, and his entire active career has been spent either on his father's old farm or in the home where he can now be found. He attended the Travisville School, but at the age of eighteen went to farming. Mr. Goodspeed married, October 15, 1891, Gertrude Johnstone. She was educated largely at Warsaw, Indiana, and came to Bluffton when a young woman. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Goodspeed rented the 120 acre farm of his father for twelve years and afterward purchased a place three miles from Bluffton. Mrs. Goodspeed is an active member of the Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics Mr. Goodspeed is a republican. They have three children. Hazel is a graduate of the common schools and attended Bluffton High School, and is now the wife of Ross Lockwood of Chester Township. Beryl also completed the course of the common schools and is the wife of Jesse Johnston of Swayzee, Indiana. Paul, the youngest of the family, attended the Bluffton High School.

JOSEPH P. LOCKWOOD. Of the agriculturists of Wells County who lay claim to the title of being self-made, few have better right to this distinction than has Joseph P. Lockwood. When he started upon his career it was as a worker in the oil fields, but his energies and ambitions would not allow him to remain a wage-earner, and he gradually developed into a landholder and eventually into one of the substantial agriculturists of his community. He is now the owner of 310 acres of well

cultivated land in Nottingham Township, practically all of which has come to him as a result of his own efforts.

Mr. Lockwood was born on a farm in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, three-quarters of a mile from where he now resides, February 1, 1868, and is a son of James E. and Frances A. (Block) Lockwood. His parents, who still live in this township, are farming people, and Joseph P. Lockwood was reared to the pursuits of farming, his education being secured in the district schools. When still a young man he secured employment in the oil fields as a driller, a vocation at which he worked during a period of four years, but after his marriage bought twenty acres of land, a part of his father's farm, and began married life in an old log house. In the meantime he continued to work in the oil fields, in various capacities, even being a producer for a short period, but finally found that his agricultural interests had grown to such an extent that they needed his entire attention and he accordingly gave up other matters for them. His original twenty acres he sold for another property of a like acreage, on which he made his home until 1902, when he bought forty acres in Harrison Township. This he later sold and returned to Nottingham Township, where he has since enjoyed the best of prosperity, and now is the owner of 310 acres of land. He has a splendid set of farm buildings, machinery and equipment of the most modern character, and other improvements that are valuable, and his entire prosperity evidences the good management and ability of the owner. As a citizen he stands high in his community, and has always been a supporter of good enterprises and beneficial movements. Mr. Lockwood is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is serving on the board of trustees.

On November 25, 1888, Mr. Lockwood was married to Hepsey A. Stevens, who was born in Ohio and brought as a child by her parents to Wells county, where she was educated in the public schools. They became the parents of ten children, as follows: Ross, Bertha, Virgil, Edwin, Harry, Cecil, Grace, Stella, Ralph and Lawrence. Cecil Lockwood, a graduate of the Petroleum High School, is now cashier of the State Farmers Bank of Keystone, Indiana.

Orin D. Garrett. Who he is, what he does and some measure of his influence hardly requires a statement in Wells County when the name of O. D. Garrett is mentioned. However, for the benefit of the few who are not personally acquainted with his achievements it may be said that he is a farmer and stock buyer owning one of the best country homes near Liberty Center.

It was in April, 1862, when O. D. Garrett was six months old and a little too young to be conscious of his environment, that the Garrett family journeyed out of Ashland County, Ohio, into Wells County, Indiana, and made settlement in Liberty Township. Orin D. Garrett was born in the Ohio county named on October 22, 1861, being the youngest child of Joseph and Elizabeth (Ciphers) Garrett, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Joseph Garrett was born in 1814 and died in 1887, and his wife was born in 1824 and died in 1896. Both were of German ancestry. They married in Ohio and when they removed to Wells County their oldest child, Frank W., now Dr. Frank W. of Liberty Center, was six years old, and the second in the family was Amanda, three years old. She is now the wife of Dr. Isaac A. Smith of Huntington County, Indiana.

Joseph Garrett and wife located on a farm a mile south of Liberty Center known as the Garrett Homestead. Both parents were devoted members of the Baptist Church. In this part of the country O. D. Gar-

rett received his education and grew to manhood assisting his father on the farm until he was twenty-one. His early education was acquired in the liberty Center public schools. About the time he reached his majority his parents removed to Liberty Center, and the complete management of the farm devolved upon him. That was no small responsibility for a man of his years, and while sacrificing his long cherished plans to secure an advanced education, his faithfulness to duty kept him constant, and there was no question in his own mind or of members of the family that he would ever fail. His progressive ideas, fidelity, coupled with a cheerful disposition and kind consideration for "the other fellow," were rapidly bringing him the practical knowledge that is always a credit to the self-made business man.

In February, 1883, Mr. Garrett married Miss Hattie Noe, daughter of David and Harriet Noe of Chester Township, Wells County. Before her marriage she was one of the county's successful school teachers. In 1904 the home of the husband and two daughters was broken by the mother's death resulting from creeping paralysis.

While Mr. Garrett has always placed farming first and owns 345 acres in Wells and Huntington counties, yet for thirty years he has been an active live stock shipper and is still engaged in the business with the firm of Garrett & Gordon of Liberty Center. Among other business interests he has been a road contractor, building extensively in Wells and Huntington counties. He is one of the directors of the Studabaker Grain & Seed Company of Bluffton, is president of the Garrett-Turpin Lumber Company of Mississippi, a company that manufactures lumber from its own tract of eighteen hundred acres of timber in the Yazoo Valley.

The capable handling of public affairs and offices also comes natural to Mr. Garrett. From 1886 to 1891 he was township assessor and in 1910 served as county chairman for the republican party. In 1906 he was elected county auditor, and thus far in the political history of Wells County has the unique distinction of being the only republican elected to this office.

On January 1, 1908, he took his office and the following June he married Miss Marguerite Arthelda Bixler, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. William Bixler of Akron, Ohio. Mrs. Garrett, with her two sisters, Eva, wife of Warren Jenks of North Manchester, Indiana, and Betty, wife of O. G. Schrop of Akron, Ohio, received her public school and early musical education in Stark County, Ohio, where all the daughters were born. Gifted in music, Mrs. Garrett was accorded special training in voice building from such teachers as the Italian master Ridge, and concert coaching from Hill. During their school days the sisters appeared in nearly 300 musical programs. After high school Marguerite entered Mount Morris College in Illinois, taking a course in elocution and physical culture, also graduating from the Art and Bible Department. At this institution she was a member of the college faculty for three years, and later for two years at North Manchester College in Wabash County, Indiana. These positions were both resigned for that of evangelistic song and musical institute work among the churches. In the interest of this department of Christian activity, sixteen states were visited and nearly a thousand special programs of sacred song and story given. Mrs. Garrett also went abroad as song evangelist for the School of Travel and Research, touring Europe, Asia and Africa. Some of her best known gospel songs were written while visiting the Holy Land. "Galilee" was composed while sailing across the Sea of Galilee, and "Dreams" shortly after a visit to Mount Tabor, overlooking the Plain of Esdraelon, "the great battlefield of nations." Since

residing in Wells County Mrs. Garrett has continued her interest and devoted much of her time to Christian and musical activities.

At the expiration of the auditor's official term of four years, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett moved from Bluffton to their country home one mile north of Liberty Center, situated on the banks of Lake Garrett, one of the largest artificial lakes in Indiana, and it is known as one of the most complete, artistic, picturesque and thoroughly adequate and self-sufficing country homes in the Hoosier State. For both Mr. and Mrs. Garrett no vacation or relaxation from home and business care is quite correct that does not include a big game hunt. Trophies from various hunting fields are found in their private collection,

"For, they listen to the pleading,
And they answer to the call
Of the whisper from the woodland
When the leaves of Autumn fall."

Earl Higgins, V. S. One of the successful young professional men of Harrison Township, Wells County, is Dr. Earl Higgins, a graduate veterinarian, and a popular young man of this section. Doctor Higgins was the eldest of his parents' family and was born December 16, 1887, a son of Chads and Ida (Cobburn) Higgins. He spent his boyhood days on the home farm and attended the public schools. For some years he engaged in farming, and in handling cattle and stock discovered that he was so much interested in dumb creatures that he concluded to make a study of their medical and surgical needs. In recent years his profession has been advanced to one of equal dignity and necessity and a long course of study and training was involved before he was most creditably graduated in April, 1917, from the Indiana Veterinary College, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Doctor Higgins was marrried to Miss Pearl Ditzler, who is a daughter of John R. and Catherine (Brickley) Ditzler, and they have had three children: Hermennia, who is eight years old; Catherine, who is six years; and Lucile, who died in 1917. In politics, Doctor Higgins is a democrat.

John R. Ditzler, father of Mrs. Higgins, was born at Galion, Ohio, October 9, 1853. His parents were George and Elizabeth (Sarbaugh) Ditzler, the former of whom was born at Reading, Pennsylvania. George Ditzler learned the carpenter's trade and worked at the same before moving to Crawford County, Ohio, where he combined it with farming. In Pennsylvania he had also operated a grist mill. In 1863 he came to Wells County, Indiana, and located in Rock Creek Township, where he acquired 160 acres of fine land and became well-known and respected as an industrious and progressive farmer. His death occurred May 6, 1892. He was married to Elizabeth Sarbaugh in Pennsylvania, and the following children were born to them: George, who is a resident of Markle, Indiana; Frank, who is in business at Warren, Indiana; John R.; and Susan, Mary, Sarah, Belinda, Elizabeth and Alice.

John R. Ditzler was reared on his father's farm and attended the country schools and continued on the farm after his marriage to Catherine Brickley until he was appointed superintendent of the Bluffton-Huntington gravel road, which position he held for a term of twelve years. When the new law went into effect that divided the county into districts, he was appointed overseer of one of the districts, and he continued in that office for eighteen months. His work in the supervision of gravel roads proved so satisfactory to all concerned that in 1898 he was appointed superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary, for the

public had confidence in his integrity and knew that he would discharge his public duties with as much care and efficiency as if they were his private interests. His death occurred May 2, 1911.

John R. Ditzler was married to Malinda Brickley, who was a daughter of Alfred Brickley, one of the substantial farmers and a former trustee of Rock Creek Township. To this marriage the following children were born: Etta, who is the wife of John A. Miller; John C., who married Mary Haughton, and both are deceased; Pearl, who is the wife of Dr. Earl Higgins; and Nora, who married Chauncey J. Myers. Mr. Ditzler and wife were members of the Lutheran Church, in which he was one of the elders. In politics he was a democrat and he was ever loyal to its principles.

Joseph C. G. Maddox. Fully three-quarters of a century have passed since the Maddox family invaded the wilderness of Chester Township in Wells County, and through the collective energies and resources of this one family many acres of wild land have been cleared, the fruits of the field have been gathered season after season, good homes have been established, families reared, and the name is identified with everything good and useful in the county. The life of Joseph C. G. Maddox has been in keeping with the record set by the family as a whole, and for a number of years he gave his services as an educator and for over thirty years has lived on the farm where he was born in Chester township. His home is on Rural Route No. 2 out of Keystone.

Mr. Maddox was born on his present farm February 25, 1855, a son of Wesley H. and Eliza A. (Groves) Maddox. His grandparents were Michael and Frances (Williams) Maddox, natives of Virginia and of English and Scotch descent. The Maddox ancestors came to America about the time of the Revolution. Michael Maddox married for his first wife in Virginia Miss Fraley, by whom he was the father of ten children, and altogether he had eighteen children by two wives. In 1795 he removed to Adams County, Ohio, and still later to Highland County, where he married Frances Williams. In the fall of 1839 he removed with his family to Blackford County, Indiana, settling two miles east of Montpelier. He entered a hundred sixty acres in Section 11 of Harrison township of that county, cleared away a spot in the woods, built a log cabin, and remained a faithful worker and a public spirited resident of that community until his death on September 10, 1845. He was a regular worshipper in the Methodist Episcopal faith. His widow moved out to Nebraska in 1866 and died in Richardson County of that state December 10, 1874. She was a very noble woman, deeply inclined to religious work, possessed a great deal of business-like and practical energy, and did well by all her children. These children, all of whom reached maturity, were Polly, Joseph C., Wesley H., William M., Wilson M., James J., Eliza A. and Sarah, all of whom are now deceased.

Wesley Harvey Maddox, father of Joseph C., was the founder of the family in Wells County and for many years one of its most highly esteemed citizens. He was born in Highland County, Ohio, September 2, 1821, and in 1837 at the age of sixteen came to Indiana and joined a brother in Randolph County. A little later he moved to Blackford County, where his parents subsequently joined him, and he was with them until after his father's death. In 1842 he and a half brother bought a hundred sixty acres of land in Section 36 of Chester Township, Wells County. It is said that his half brother gave a horse in payment of his share. Wesley H. Maddox did not have a dollar of capital, and he paid for the land by the proceeds of his hunting ability. He caught many coons and killed numerous deer, and in the course of two years

had his eighty acres paid for. In 1845 he bought the eighty acres of his half brother. To pay for this he worked at wages of $10 a month or thereabouts for four years in Wayne, Fayette and Union counties. The first home on this farm was a log building 18 by 24 feet, erected by the first occupant, who had settled there in 1841.

After coming to Wells County, Wesley H. Maddox became acquainted with the Groves family, and on November 8, 1849, married Eliza Ann Groves, oldest child of Thomas and Ann (Wilson) Groves. She was a native of Licking County, Ohio. Her parents came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1839, and it is said that they made their home under the wide spreading branches of an oak tree until their log cabin was completed. Thomas Groves, a son of Robert and Susanna Groves, was one of four brothers, Thomas, George, Joseph and Lewis, all of whom came to Wells county and settled near Poneto. Joseph Groves set aside a portion of his farm for a cemetery, and Susanna Groves, who died in 1840, was the first person buried there. Eliza A. Groves was teacher of the first school in Chester Township, and was a woman of much culture and thorough education. She died May 9, 1874. Wesley H. Maddox and wife settled on their farm two weeks after their marriage. Their land was in the midst of the heavy timber, only one acre had been cleared, and their joint possessions consisted of a bedstead, a few dishes, two cows and two colts. Mr. Maddox soon made a table out of black walnut, and that was one of his prized possessions for many years, and is now owned by Joseph C. G. Maddox. Wesley Maddox made a living from his farm and from his prowess as a hunter, and his property and prosperity increased until at one time he owned over 300 acres, with more than 200 acres in cultivation. He became a republican upon the organization of the party, and filled various places of trust, including that of township trustee. He and his wife had eight children, seven of whom grew to maturity: Leander E., who became a physician and married Mary E. Newman; Frances A., who married George W. Leach, and she lost her life in the terrible Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago in 1903, her daughter, Estella, who was with her at the time, being one of the few who escaped; Joseph C. G., next in age; William M., who married Alice Tribell; Sarah E., wife of Amaziah Shields; Wesley H., Jr., who married Lulu Shields; and Laura Belle, wife of John E. Markley.

Joseph C. G. Maddox grew up on the old homestead, acquired his early education in the district schools and at Bluffton, and qualifying as a teacher he spent the greater part of his time for fifteen years in that work.

On June 11, 1879, he married Miss Elizabeth O. Dawson, who was born in Nottingham Township of Wells County, and was educated in the common schools. She was only three years of age when her mother died, and her father was George Dawson. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Maddox began keeping house a half mile east of Keystone, but in 1884 he gave up teaching and has since devoted his entire attention to looking after his well cultivated farm in Chester Township. He owns 240 acres, and in addition to building up this fine estate has ample provision for his children in the way of making a good home and giving them a liberal education. Mr. Maddox is a republican in politics and is always ready with his support for any movement that would benefit the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Maddox have three children, Hugh G., Chella D., and J. Glenn. The oldest, Hugh G., was educated in the common schools at Keystone, in the Montpelier High School, and took the law course at the State University, graduating LL. B. in 1908. He is now on the

farm with his father. He married Carrie B. Steele of Bloomington, Indiana, and has one child, Geraldine, born May 3, 1908. Mrs. Hugh G. Maddox died February 25, 1918. Chella D., the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Maddox, is a graduate of the Keystone and Montpelier schools and was awarded the degree Master of Arts by the Indiana State University. She is now the wife of Howard W. Strait, and they live in Chester Township and have two bright young children, J. Lowell and Elizabeth. J. Glenn, the youngest child, is a graduate of the Keystone High School, and married Shirley A. Gaiser. Their two children are Gaiser and Eulonda.

Clem Rook. Among the numerous examples of successful farm enterprise in Wells County one that deserves more than passing mention is the Elm Line Stock Farm, of which Clem Rook is proprietor. This farm is situated a mile south and a half mile west of Keystone on Rural Route No. 2. It is not one of the largest farms in the country, comprising eighty acres, but is undoubtedly one of the best managed and most productive for its size. Mr. Rook is a specialist in stock raising. The Elm Line Stock Farm is every year gaining increased reputation as the home of some of the best grades of stock in the county. Mr. Rook has a very fine herd of Duroc hogs, and his herd is headed by one of the best males of the class, of the Chief Defender strain. He has good grades of cattle and horses, and is also a breeder and fancier of the Single Comb Rhode Island Red poultry.

Mr. Rook has made a success in life by strenuous self-exertion. He was born in Blackford County, Indiana, July 9, 1881, son of Charles and Catherine (Markins) Rook. When he was seven years of age both his parents died and as an orphan boy he was reared in the home of an uncle. While there he attended common schools only in the winter session and was employed in various tasks both while in school and especially during the summer seasons. At the age of sixteen he left his uncle's home and went to work on his own resources. Two years he worked in the oil fields.

On December 24, 1904, Mr. Rook married Miss Laura Hiestand. She was born on a farm in Nottingham Township of Wells County, daughter of John and Nettie (Stephens) Hiestand. Her father was a native of Springfield and her mother of Adams County, Indiana. Both now reside in Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Rook had very little capital when they married, and they began housekeeping at Dunkirk, Indiana, where he worked on a farm. Later he rented a place near Redkey, Indiana, and subsequently moved to the McCaffery farm in Chester Township of Wells County. Here they continued renting for eight years, but in the meantime after four years they were able to buy the farm that is now known as the Elm Line Stock Farm. For several years Mr. Rook conducted both the rented place and his own land, and on November 5, 1914, came to his present home. The land of Elm Line Stock Farm was largely in the woods when he took possession, and its improvements are evidence of his thrifty and industrious ownership.

Mr. and Mrs. Rook have one daughter, Dorothy, born September 17, 1905, and now a student in the Keystone school. The family are members of the Catholic Church at Montpelier and in politics Mr. Rook is a democrat.

Amos R. Williams took the lead in organizing the Bank of Petroleum and has been its president from the time it opened its doors for business on December 22, 1908. He has made this one of the sound and

substantial banking institutions of Wells County, and his associates are all prominent men in this section.

Mr. Williams has for many years been one of the leading farmers of Nottingham Township, and his place of 200 acres has often been spoken of as a model of agricultural management and improvement.

Mr. Williams was born on a farm in Nottingham Township December 1, 1849, a son of James S. and Harriet (Bolenger) Williams. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Ohio. James S. Williams accompanied his widow mother to Pickaway County, Ohio, when he was very young, and grew to manhood in circumstances that forced him at an early age to earn his own living. He married in Pickaway County, farmed there for two years afterwards, and in 1847 brought his family to Wells County, Indiana, settling in section 1 of Nottingham Township. He had no property at the time, but his wife inherited forty acres and through industry and good management James S. Williams earned the money to buy forty adjoining acres. All of that was in the woods, but he kept steadily at work until it was under cultivation, and in time he became one of the extensive land owners of the township, with over 300 acres under his control. He died at the old homestead September 14, 1901, and his widow passed away in 1906. He was active in the United Brethren Church and in politics was a republican. The children were named Martha, George, Amos R., Mary, Emma, Sarah, Frank, Ada and Ida, twins, Hiram, Thomas S., John, Alice and Amanda. Seven of these are still living.

Amos R. Williams grew up on the old home farm in Nottingham Township, and acquired his early education in the district schools. At the age of twenty-one he entered the lumber industry, acquiring a third interest in a sawmill with his brother, George, and with Henry Kirkwood. In three or four years Amos R. Williams became sole proprietor of the mill, but a little later traded the milling property for eighty acres in section 9 of Nottingham Township. A small part of this had been cleared, and there were no other improvements beyond a small frame house and an old log barn. With the exception of two years spent in Bluffton for the purpose of recovering his health, Mr. Williams gave all the strength of his body and the intelligence of his mind to the improvement and management of his farm, for many years, and few men of the county have been more prosperous as farmers. He erected a splendid barn in 1893 and in 1897 built one of the finest country homes of the county. Though now a resident of Petroleum, Mr. Williams still keeps in close touch with his varied farming interests.

On March 25, 1875, Mr. Williams married Miss Mary Kirkwood, daughter of William and Susan (Gehrett) Kirkwood, both natives of Ohio and early settlers of Wells County. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Williams, namely: Oliver J., born March 27, 1876, and died September 3, 1877; William A., born March 11, 1878; John F., born November 20, 1879, died August 2, 1880; Verne, born August 4, 1881; Pearl, born November 3, 1883; Delbert, born September 15, 1885; Clem, born April 28, 1887; Samuel, born September 11, 1889; and Anna, born September 3, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Williams gave their children the best of advantages in the local schools and most of them are established now in homes of their own. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is one of the church trustees. He has filled all the chairs in Lodge No. 752 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Poneto, and in politics is a stanch republican.

JOHN C. DAWLEY. The successful farmer of today must be able to carry on his enterprise with close calculation and scientific manage-

ment and because of their ability to do so, many of the agriculturists of Wells County have become practically independent. Among the prosperous agriculturists of Chester Township is John C. Dawley, whose richly cultivated farm of forty acres presents proof of careful tillage and judicious farm methods.

John C. Dawley may almost be called a native of Wells County, Indiana, as his entire life, with the exception of a few months in infancy, has been passed here. He was, however, born in Highland County, Ohio, June 11, 1851. His parents were William A. and Malinda (Pannel) Dawley. His father was of New England ancestry and was born in Vermont, and his mother was a native of Ohio, in which state they were married in 1850. In December, 1851, they came to Wells County, Indiana, and settled in Nottingham Township and spent the rest of their lives here. They were most worthy people and consistent members of the Christian Church. They had five children born to them and three of these are living, namely: John C.; James F., who is a farmer in Jay County, Indiana; Amanda J., who is the wife of Jeremiah Smith, a farmer in Oklahoma.

John C. Dawley was reared in Nottingham Township. When old enough he started to go to school and well remembers the old schoolhouse of logs located not far from his father's farm, a very different building from the one in which his own children were educated. He has been a farmer all his life and until he was twenty-one years old worked by the month at farm labor, and thus had good practical training for the future when he had his own farm to manage.

Mr. Dawley was married to Miss Barbara Poulson, in Wells County, and they had three children: Martha J., who is the wife of William Keene of Chester Township; James H.; and Rosetta, who is the wife of Austin Lewis. The mother of these children died when they were young and Mr. Dawley's second marriage was to Miss Bashaba Jarrett. To this marriage the following children were born: John W.; Mary E., who is the wife of Lawrence Penrod; and Flossie W. and M. W., both of whom live with their parents.

For many years Mr. Dawley has been prominent in republican politics in Wells County and has served with the utmost efficiency in public offices. For five years he was assessor of Chester township and otherwise has been capable in public matters. He is widely known and has a host of personal friends. This fact was proved when his party nominated him for the office of sheriff of Wells county and in the election he cut the normal democratic majority of 1,800 to 500 votes.

Oliver F. Tate. One of the representative citizens and prosperous agriculturists of Wells County is Oliver F. Tate, whose valuable farm is situated on section 16, Chester Township. Mr. Tate was born on this place, October 20, 1858. His parents were John and Cynthia (Beason) Tate.

Many of the leading families of Indiana originated in Virginia and there John Tate, the father, was born in 1835 and came from there in early manhood to Wayne County, Indiana. Here he was married to Cynthia Beason, who was born in this county August 28, 1841. After marriage they moved to Wells County, and here John Tate, in 1857, bought forty acres of land located near Chester Center, in Chester Township. He immediately began to improve his property but his work was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until incapacitated by wounds, at Helena, Arkansas, in 1863.

There were two children in the family: Oliver F. and Jane, who is the widow of Charles Beavington of Warren, Indiana.

Oliver F. Tate had comparatively few advantages of any kind in boyhood, for life was hard on the pioneer farm while the father was away serving and suffering for his country. He went to school as opportunity offered until he was thirteen years old, and then started out to face the world for himself. He fortunately found plenty of farmers willing to employ a strong, vigorous, industrious boy, and until he was twenty years old he worked in Wells County and then visited some of the western states. He remained away for about two years, but in his travels found no place that suited him better than the old home neighborhood, and came back and in the fall of 1883 settled on his present farm. He has 106 acres in Chester Township, all the result of his own industry, and has made improvements that render his property very valuable. He carries on a general farming line and raises some good stock.

Mr. Tate was married on November 9, 1882, to Miss Emma Helm, who was born, reared and educated in Randolph County, Indiana. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Tate settled first in Jackson Township, but subsequently moved to Chester Township. The following children have been born to them: Lula, who is a graduate of the Keystone High School; John, who was graduated from the public schools and then entered the regular army of the United States, with rank of quartermaster-sergeant, and has served in the Philippine Islands and on the Mexican border, a young man well deserving the military honors that have come to him; Benjamin, who is the home farmer, his father's right hand man; Edna, who has completed the common school course; and Hugh, who is a student in the Keystone High School.

Mr. Tate is an active and influential factor in county politics, a republican leader to some extent. He has served as school director and as deputy township assessor and also has been a delegate to both state and congressional conventions.

Edward S. Wolfe. A substantial farmer and breeder of high grade horses in Nottingham Township, Wells County, is Edward S. Wolfe, who devotes himself mainly to his agricultural interests at present, but for many years was identified with the oil industry in Indiana and Ohio. Few men know more thoroughly the past and present history of that natural product in relation to this section of the state.

Edward S. Wolfe was born in Jay County, Indiana, July 20, 1867. His parents were J. N. and Hannah L. (Lacy) Wolfe. Both parents were natives of Ohio and they were married in Wells County, Indiana, but located first in Jay County, from there coming to Wells County, when Edward S. was thirteen years old. He assisted his father and remained at home until he was about twenty-five years of age, in the meanwhile attending the district schools until about the age of nineteen.

After his marriage, in 1892, Mr. Wolfe rented the L. P. Walser farm near Domestic, which he operated for two years and then went to work in the oil fields and was connected with an outfit there until 1894, when he became foreman of the Dunmore Oil Company and continued with that concern for three years. Mr. Wolfe by that time had learned much and had had valuable experience and decided to go into the business for himself. He purchased a string of tools and for the following eighteen years followed oil contracting both in Indiana and Ohio. In 1899 the Wolfe oil lease was opened and he and his father became producers and he operated the well until the oil was all pumped out. Since then Mr. Wolfe has been engaged as above mentioned, hav-

ing a valuable farm of seventy-five acres near Domestic, and owning a one-half interest in the Three Mile Stock Farm, where a specialty is made of breeding thorough-bred Percheron horses.

Mr. Wolfe was married October 27, 1892, to Miss Anna Settle, the eldest daughter of Winfield S. and Elizabeth (Albertson) Settle, a family of much importance in Nottingham township. Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe have had two children, the one survivor being Sadie, who was born August 20, 1893. She is the widow of Earl Barton and has one child, Frances L., who has passed her fifth birthday and is a precious treasure in the home of her grandparents.

In politics Mr. Wolfe is a republican, but his life has been so closely devoted to business that he has not had much opportunity, even if he had the inclination, to be very active in politics. He is not an indifferent citizen, however, being always interested in movements that will benefit his section, and has always been liberal in contributing to the cause of charity.

Homer E. Robison, D. D. S. The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved and whose prominence is not the less the result of an irreproachable life than of natural talents and acquired ability in the field of his chosen labor. Dr. Robison occupies a position of distinction as a representative of the dental profession in Bluffton and the best evidence of his capability in the line of his chosen work is the large patronage which is accorded him. He is associated in practice with his father, an old and reliable dentist in this city, and the firm is known as Robison & Robison.

Dr. Homer E. Robison was born in Bluffton, Indiana, February 9, 1877, and he is a son of Dr. P. L. and Willametta (Merriman) Robison, the former of whom was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Whitley County, Indiana. The Robison family, originally from Scotland, was founded in America in the old colonial era of our national history by John Robison, great-great-grandfather of Dr. Robison of this review. He came to this country and settled in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where he married Barbara Dumbauld. He was a loyal and patriotic citizen and served throughout the period of the War of the Revolution. He and his wife were the parents of one son, John, whose birth occurred in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, October 30, 1785. In 1803 John Robison married Catherine Weimer and to them were born eight children, of whom William W. was the youngest son; he was born in 1824 and in 1847 married Sophia Eicher. To them were born four children, two of whom died in infancy. Concerning the other two, Catherine became the wife of William C. Williamson of Kanorado, Kansas, where she died September 22, 1917, and Peter Lohr is the father of Homer E.

William W. Robison purchased the old homestead in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and lived on it until 1859, when he sold it and came to Indiana, locating in Union Township, Adams County. He was engaged in farming operations for a time and then studied for the ministry and was ordained a Baptist preacher. He had charge of the Baptist Church at Bluffton for a period of thirteen years and went thence to Columbia City, where he remained three years. In March, 1880, he accepted a call to Auburn, Crawford County, Ohio, and there his cherished and devoted wife died April 13, 1881. He was summoned to eternal rest in 1898.

Dr. Peter Lohr Robison was six years of age when his parents located in the Hoosier State. He was educated in the public schools of Adams County and Springfield Academy. In 1871 he engaged in the grocery business in Bluffton. Shortly afterward he went to Kenton, Ohio, and there studied dentistry. March 29, 1874, he returned to Bluffton, here

initiating the work of his profession as a partner of Dr. Thomas Sturgis, under the firm name of Sturgis & Robison. Poor health, however, compelled him to discontinue his dental practice and thereafter he was engaged at different kinds of work until 1879. In that year he again entered upon the active practice of his profession as a member of the firm of Robison & Merriman. This alliance continued for two years and after that Dr. Robison practiced alone, until the year 1900. In the latter year he associated with himself his son, Dr. Homer E. Robison, whose name forms the caption for this review. Dr. Peter L. Robison is well known throughout Bluffton and Wells County as an exemplary citizen and as a strictly reliable and skillful dentist. He is a member, deacon and trustee of the Baptist Church and is chairman of the county Sunday School Committee. His political adherence is with the democratic party and he has long been active in local politics. For two terms he served with marked efficiency as city clerk of Bluffton and he is enthusiastic in his support of all matters projected for the good of the general welfare. May 18, 1875, Dr. Robison married Miss Willametta Merriman, a daughter of Dr. Merriman, of South Whitley, Indiana. Dr. and Mrs. Robison have two children: Homer E. and Nellie, the latter of whom is the wife of Cairo Snider, of Marion, Indiana.

In the public and high schools of Bluffton Dr. Homer E. Robison received his preliminary educational discipline, then entering Franklin College at Franklin, Indiana. After leaving Franklin he entered the Cincinnati Dental College, and in 1896 he was matriculated as a student in Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and was graduated as a member of the class of 1898, with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. He stood so high in his work that he received an honorary appointment in the university and was there for two years more. In 1900 he returned to Bluffton and entered his illustrious father's dental parlors as a partner. This mutually agreeable association has continued to the present time and the firm of Robison & Robison is well known throughout Wells County.

March 29, 1899, Doctor Robison married Miss Ruby Sturgis, a daughter of J. E. Sturgis, of Bluffton, Indiana. This union has been prolific of two children: Helen E., born June, 1902; and Betty, born in February, 1914. Doctor Robison is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of Blue Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Bluffton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Bluffton Council, Royal and Select Masters. He is likewise affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, of which he was a trustee for seven years; and with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a democrat in politics.

It is a well known fact that a great percentage of those who enter business life meet with failure or only a limited measure of success. This is usually due to one or more of several causes—superficial preparation, lack of close application, or an unwise choice in selection of a vocation for which one is not fitted. The reverse of all this has entered into the success and prominence which Doctor Robison and his father have gained. Their equipment for the profession was unusually good and they have continually extended the scope of their labors through the added efficiency that comes from keeping in touch with the marked advancement that has been made by the members of the dental fraternity in the last quarter of a century.

George R. Mounsey. Wells County has its full quota of merchants, manufacturers, professional men and bankers to whom it is indebted for its prestige among its sister counties, but perhaps it is more particularly

noted for the high standards set by its agriculturists, whose energy and enterprise during the past several decades have made this locality one of the garden spots of Indiana, as well as a center of agricultural production that adds to its importance at a time when the nations of the earth are looking to America with anxious eyes in regard to the food supply. One of the most productive parts of the county is the district lying in Chester Township, where is to be found the Keystone Stock Farm, one mile west of Keystone, which property is owned by George R. Mounsey, a progressive and energetic farmer with twentieth-century ideas. Mr. Mounsey was born at Liberty, Wells County, Indiana, February 26, 1857, a son of John and Eliza (Merriman) Mounsey.

John Mounsey was born at the foot of Mount Skedy, in Cumberlandshire, England, and was eighteen years of age when he came to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania. There he accepted whatever honorable employment he could find, but was not satisfied with so uncertain a career and accordingly, in 1841, came to Wells County, Indiana, where he purchased 160 acres of land in Liberty Township. This was largely covered with timber at the time of his arrival, but Mr. Mounsey cleared a spot, built a cabin and set about to improve and cultivate his land to such good effect that he became one of the substantial men of his community and the owner of a valuable property. Mr. Mounsey was one of the pillars of the Baptist Church and for many years a deacon therein, being for three years a deacon in the church located southwest of Liberty Center. He was a democrat in his political affiliation, and was known as an influential man in his party, but beyond serving as a member of the election board took little part as an office holder. Of his nine children, seven are living at this time.

George R. Mounsey was reared on the home farm in Liberty Township, and after completing his education in the district schools taught a class in the country for one term. Until he was twenty-five years of age he made his home in Liberty Township, but then moved to Chester Township, where he first purchased a farm in section 7. Of this he subsequently disposed to buy his present property, on section 27, township 25, range 11, which consists of 191 acres and is registered as the Keystone Stock Farm, Mr. Mounsey's favorite stock being Short Horn cattle, of which he now has a splendid herd. He carries on both general farming and dairying in addition to his cattle raising, and all three departments has achieved a pronounced success, being accounted a skilled and modern farmer of the progressive type and a good judge of cattle, as well as a business man of integrity and shrewdness. In addition to his Indiana farming land he is the possessor of 1,300 acres lying in Southern Illinois, which is being rapidly developed into a handsome estate.

Mr. Mounsey was married October 25, 1879, to Mary A. Williamson, who was born March 18, 1858, near Mount Zion, Indiana, and to this union there have been born four sons of whom three are living at this time: Otis C., a graduate of the common schools, first graduate of the Keystone High School, and also a graduate of the Indiana State University, and now looking after his father's agricultural interests in Southern Illinois; A. E., a graduate of the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Business College, who is engaged in farming operations in Blackford County, Indiana; and Carey E., a graduate of the Montpelier High School and of the State University, and who was principal of schools at Mount Comfort and Keystone one year, and now in the training camp at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, getting ready to be called into service in the great war. Mr. and Mrs. Mounsey and their children are members of the Christian Church. Mr. Mounsey is a democrat in politics and has taken some interest in public affairs. He has also been the incumbent of

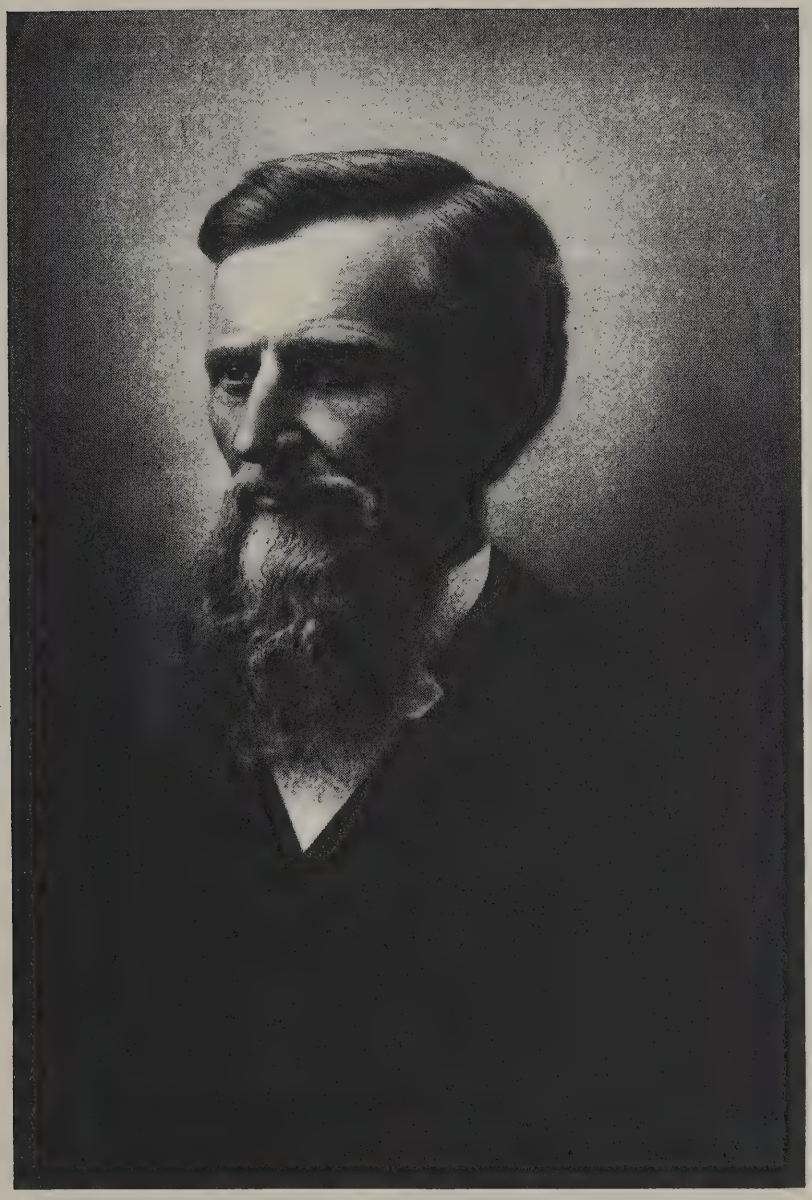
several local offices, having served his community well as trustee of Chester Township from 1890 to 1895; and as county commissioner of Wells County for one term of three years.

Hon. Michael C. Blue. The following sketch contains the important facts in the life and family records of the Wells County citizen whose name has always stood for all that is honest and of good report in this community, for thrift and business integrity, for a position which all must respect. Mr. Blue's life has been significant not only for its duration, but also for its performance of duties and its strength and usefulness in every one of life's important relations.

Mr. Blue is one of the honored octogenarians of Wells County, and his recollections of pioneer days furnish many items that are valuable as history apart from their significance in his own career. These recollections, recorded at this time, serve to supplement sketches of his life previously published, and altogether it makes one of the notable chapters in this publication.

Mr. Blue was born in Miami County, Ohio, April 16, 1836. His birthplace was a log cabin standing on one of the school sections of that county (section 16). He was four years of age when he accompanied the family to Lancaster Township of Wells County, where they arrived in March, 1840. At that time the Blue family consisted of Uriah and Rachel (Moore) Blue, and their children: Mary, Lucinda, Michael C. and James Blue. The Blue family came originally from Virginia and settled first in Kentucky but soon afterward went into the Miami Valley of Ohio. Uriah Blue had entered his land in Lancaster Township in 1836 and the patent still in the family was signed by President Van Buren.

One of the interesting things to know is how the early families traveled when coming to Wells County. The early part of the winter of 1840 was open until the latter part of February, when it began to freeze. The road leading from Miami County, Ohio, to Wells County, Indiana, was new and for most of the way had just been cut out. There were no bridges over the streams or swamps and in wet mild weather a wagon could have made no progress at all. As soon as the roads would bear up a team and wagon, the parents loaded the wagon with all the household goods it would contain and then in some way managed to put in the children and set out to travel the distance of more than a hundred miles through the woods. After leaving Troy and Piqua they passed no towns except the small settlements of St. Marys and Wilshire, Ohio. Each day they made as much progress as possible and at nightfall camped out by the roadside. Thus after many stages they arrived in section 15, Lancaster Township, where the father had previously located his claim in the northwest quarter. Besides the team of horses that drew the wagon four head of milch cows were driven along. The Blue family arrived at their destination late one evening. The horses and cows were tied to small trees, and Uriah Blue with flint and steel built a fire beside a great log. In this situation they felt themselves completely remote and isolated from all the world, and felt at liberty to say and act as they pleased. But soon after nightfall, the wolves, perhaps regarding them as intruders upon their just rights and territory, set up such a tremendous howling that it shook the wagon in which the parents and children were trying to sleep. Underneath the wagon was the old dog Pointer and he was so frightened that had he been able he would undoubtedly have sought refuge up a tree. Thus the first night spent in Wells County was not without its unpleasant features. But with the coming of morning the wolves sneaked away,



Michael B Blue

the family crawled out from the wagon, and at the roll call all were found to be present. The cattle were then set free and also the horses to graze or browse on the twigs and grass. Uriah Blue then set busily to work seeking out a spot for the erection of his cabin. It was nearly noon before the preliminaries were finished, and then to the surprise of every one there suddenly came upon the scene some fifteen or sixteen brawny Hoosiers, who unloaded their axes and guns and without special introduction inquired where the house was to be built. When the spot was pointed out, all of them set to work felling trees, splitting clapboards, and with the aid of the family team, Barge and Tongue, the logs were quickly got together and by sunset what was then regarded as an up-to-date cabin was complete, being covered over with clapboards. Every timber that entered into the construction of the cabin had been standing as a tree in the morning, and when the task was completed the neighbors shouldered their guns and axes and went as they came. To the young boy Michael it all seemed like magic, and he never knew who these industrious and helpful men were, whence they came nor whither they went.

The service performed by them was a most kindly one, since that very night a snow of nine inches fell, and the family had every reason to be grateful for their shelter. In the meantime toward evening when they went out to round up their stock, they found the best cow down on the ice. She had ventured out over the frozen surface to get the long grass, and having fallen was unable to get up. As there was no time to bring her in before night, they pulled some of the long grass and made a bed for her, and went home intending to look after her wants in the morning. About ten o'clock that night a tremendous howling of wolves was heard in the direction where the cow lay, and the next morning on going down they found nothing of old Lil but her hoofs, part of her hide, bones and horns. Thus one of the important resources for maintaining the family was removed, and they had to fall back upon the other three cows, Pied, Spot and Cherry.

While all these circumstances were somewhat depressing, it was only a few weeks before the snow melted and the wild wood gloom changed into mirth and joy of springtime. The woods were full of deer, wild turkey, pheasants, squirrels and foxes, and almost every other kind of wild game. At break of day the wild turkey could be heard gobbling in every direction, pheasants drummed, squirrels barked, and these with the singing of wild birds made up the forest symphony which only the oldest settlers can remember. It was not long before other people began moving in, and a short distance east of the Blue family four families entered a section of Government land and settled each on one of the inside corners of the section, thus forming a snug settlement. These people were well to do, and soon established a sawmill which was probably the first steam mill in Wells County. Still later there was an addition to its facilities in the form of a corn crusher, which made what was known as "pugney."

All this time the Blue family continued to live on the northwest quarter of section 15. The four children in the meantime became Hoosierized Buckeyes, and waxed in size and took on all the characteristics of thoroughbred Hoosiers. In the meantime other real Hoosiers came one by one into the family circle until there were five native Indianans, whose names were Kate, Elizabeth, Uriah, John, and Melissa. Thus the Blue family comprised nine children. These children followed the usual destiny of human kind, grew up, left the old home nest, and went to different parts of the country, and now for many years they have

been dropping off one by one until at this writing only two are left, Michael C. and Melissa.

Uriah Blue, the father, had only five dollars left after he established his home in the wilderness. He was a cooper by trade, and this was an occupation which could be turned to advantage. The habits of industry and thrift that had been his all his life were also splendid assets to a new settler in a new country. He had always been handy with tools, and close to his forest home he opened a general repair shop. His services were soon in demand by the neighbors for miles around, and gradually his income grew until the family found themselves quite comfortable. When work was slack in the shop the time was occupied in clearing and thus by the practice of unflagging industry and the most rigid economy the Blue family became established in the world. Uriah Blue as the only cooper made all the barrels, well buckets and kraut tubs that were used.

Uriah Blue lived upon his old homestead until his death. He died firm in the faith of the Baptist Church, of which he had been a member many years. He was known as an affectionate husband and father, a good quiet neighbor and as a citizen who was honored and respected far and wide. Of the living children Uriah became a citizen of Oklahoma, and Melissa is the wife of J. O. Kunkle.

When all the circumstances of pioneer times are considered it does not seem strange that some of the most familiar institutions of modern life were neglected. All the energies of the pioneers, even the pioneer children, were required to clear the land, provide better houses, raise more stock and in the practical pursuits of hunting, and thus schools and churches had to be left to the individual enterprise of teachers or missionaries. Michael C. Blue was a man grown past his majority before a real free public school system was established in Indiana. He was fully fifteen years old before he could either read or write, although for a brief time he had been one of the pupils of the so-called select school taught by Sallie Baldwin in that neighborhood. Such few schools as were maintained were poorly equipped with books and furniture and wretchedly conducted. Thus at the age of fifteen Mr. Blue knew the letters of the alphabet and might have been able to do a little spelling, but was wholly unable to read. Up to that time work on his father's farm or in the clearing occupied every moment at his disposal; there was no time for study. As he grew older he began to realize the advantages a man of education possessed over the one who was illiterate. It was this that first inspired in him a thirst for knowledge. It grew and developed until it became almost insatiable. With this burning desire to become a scholar he proved the truth of that old precept that where there is a will there is a way. He had no encouragement from his father, who like many of the old pioneers did not favor literary education and regarded skillful hands as much superior to mental ability. The Blue household had no books, and in this respect it was perhaps not different from many other pioneer cabins throughout that section in that day. The woods were full of wild blackberries, and when put on the market at Bluffton they commanded a price of 5 cents a quart. Michael C. Blue gathered a few quarts, carried them to Bluffton four miles away, and the money paid him for them he used in purchasing an elementary spelling book. It seems strange that a boy who wore man's trousers would walk four miles to obtain such a book and then hug it close to his bosom all the way home. He also made barrels and invested the returns from this work in a Ray's mental arithmetic. This was his second treasure. His next purchase was a Ray's third part arithmetic. These books were not studied as modern text books are

studied, but Mr. Blue practically mastered the contents from cover to cover, and to a large degree the problems and rules of the mental arithmetic were committed to memory. He became so proficient in mathematics and especially in mental arithmetic that some years later when he attended a higher school at Roanoke his abilities quickly brought him to prominence among the students. Each day it was customary for the schoolroom to be divided, and the teacher would give out mental problems to each side alternately. The two classes would choose what was called a "trapper" or leader and it devolved largely upon this leader to maintain the honor of his division. When a problem was submitted, failing which a mark would be registered against that side. Thus though a green and immature boy Mr. Blue was chosen trapper the second week he was in the school.

In the meantime the community where he lived had been giving some attention to schools and schoolhouses. Lancaster Township in a few years had a log schoolhouse in every district. Crude as they were they answered a purpose. Teachers were selected by a vote of the patrons of the school district, and the hiring of such a teacher was in the hands of three directors. During the winter his father's cooperage shop had its busiest season. The work was often so urgent that Michael could not be spared, but he would usually manage to steal away a few odd days each week to attend the neighboring district school. One of the older histories of Wells County contains Mr. Blue's description of his schoolboy costume: "My pantaloons were made of dressed buckskin; vest and cap of fawn skin, tanned with the hair on, while moccasins of deer skin ornamented my feet." Such a dress would now excite wonder and admiration, but was probably at that time not an unusual equipment.

Though he attended school only part time, Mr. Blue managed to keep up with his classes by asking the girls, who attended regularly, what the lessons were, and then in the evening after all the rest of the family were in bed and fast asleep he would slip back into the cooper shop, take an armful of shavings, lay them on the hearth and with his head to the fire and from the light of one or two shavings would manage to keep up with his studies and with his class. This earnest effort took him along in his school work until in a few years he was given a license to teach a common school. He taught a term, and with the proceeds attended a select school at Murray. His record in the school at Murray was so satisfactory that it convinced his father that school attendance did not have as its chief result the making of rogues of boys. Thus converted, the father instead of attempting to keep his son at home, actually urged him to attend a higher school at Roanoke and take a special course in surveying and engineering. Being proficient in mathematics, Mr. Blue quickly mastered the details of his technical education, and that training proved the key which unlocked a way to his subsequent official career.

As an admiring friend of Mr. Blue wrote some years ago: "By the time he arrived at the age of manhood Michael C. Blue had acquired an education equal to that of any young man in Wells County and far superior to many. By teaching he had secured the means to attend school at Murray and later took a course at the Roanoke Seminary. In mathematics he especially excelled, which led him to undertake the higher branches, algebra, geometry and trigonometry, which he soon mastered and was before long reckoned as one of the most accomplished civil engineers in the northern half of the state."

At the close of the term at Roanoke his teacher, Mr. Reefy, who was school examiner as well as professor, gave examinations to a number of the advanced scholars and granted a two years' license to three of the

pupils, including Mr. Blue. This license entitled the teachers to $2 per day for their services, while the other grades of license commanded wages of only $1.50 a day. With this certificate Mr. Blue taught school in Jackson Township of Huntington County, and for eight terms was successfully engaged in teaching in Wells County.

After the close of his school career Mr. Blue found himself in possession of savings amounting to $700, partly from his work as teacher and also by his ability in the chase. At that time fur brought a good price, and was easy to obtain by a good hunter. Mr. Blue invested his savings in eighty acres of land, put up a cabin home, and for more than two years lived in this alone, teaching in the winter and clearing up the land in the summer.

At that stage of his prosperous affairs, on May 1, 1866, he married Miss Rhoda A. Richey. He took his bride into a small log cabin, and there began housekeeping.

Mrs. Blue was a daughter of William S. Richey, one of the early pioneers of Wells County. A few years ago a friend and admirer of Mr. Blue, and one of the latter's students when Mr. Blue was a teacher, wrote without the knowledge of the subject a most interesting sketch which was published in a former work on Wells County. This sketch begins with a splendid tribute to Mrs. Blue, and that portion is quoted as follows:

"Gratifying indeed must it be to the good wife and mother, as she descends the latter half of life's slope, to know that the man she loves, the husband of her youth and father of her children, attributed to her every success that has come to him in life. The more exalted the station he holds, the higher the honors that are his, the more brilliant his success, the greater the joy that thrills her heart in knowing that to her wifely care and solicitude much if indeed not all of it is attributable and that the lover of her girlhood, whose love has only intensified with the lapse of time, accords to her the full praise and credit for having made him what he is. Such a wife and mother is Mrs. Rhoda Richey Blue, wife of Hon. M. C. Blue. Beginning life heavily handicapped by poverty, unable to read or write at the age of fifteen, he managed to acquire a liberal education, particularly in mathematics, served his county as surveyor, afterwards as auditor, and later his seat in the halls of legislation. All of this he credits to his wife. It is not that he lacked the material in himself to accomplish it, but without her to guide, direct and inspire him with the unalterable purpose to dare and do, he would have been swerved from his course many a time and might have relinquished the struggle in discouragement." And still later the same writer speaks of her as follows: "She is a lady of many accomplishments, of refinement and education, a woman of splendid intelligence and sound discernment who is never deceived by blandishments and sophistry. To her penetration, good judgment and expedition in arriving at correct conclusions her husband says that he is indebted for all that he has been since he met her, all that he now is or ever hopes to be. This is a very high tribute to the sagacity and virtues of the good lady, but it is one that is verified by all her friends and acquaintances in Wells County, and their name is legion."

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Blue was blessed with six children, five of whom are still living. George Clement, born November 15, 1867; Dr. Capolas Laird, born December 16, 1868; Ulvin A., born January 21, 1870, and died in infancy; Lola Zilmy, born July 3, 1871; Winfred Phineas, born April 10, 1875; and Don I., born September 23, 1882.

A short time after Mr. and Mrs. Blue had begun housekeeping, a Baptist minister named Joseph Meredith, came out from Bluffton and

asked Mr. Blue if he did not want to be elected county surveyor. Mr. Blue answered the question in the affirmative, but his wife promptly said no. However, Mr. Blue and the visitor were in the majority and overruled her objections. The little log house of the Blue family contained only one room. Mr. Blue disliked to ask his guest to step outside while he changed his clothes so taking his better garments under his arm he retired to the cornfield nearby and soon returned transformed into a candidate for public favor. He borrowed a horse of a neighbor and started out with Mr. Meredith, who introduced him to the people and made a canvass for his election. The first point they stopped at was Rockford, after which they went through Bluffton and on to Newville. After this electioneering Mr. Blue returned home and at election day he was chosen by a large majority. That was in 1867. His commission as surveyor bore the signature of Governor Oliver P. Morton. At that time the county was fast settling up and the demand for surveying was great. So he was during the first summer called into almost every section of the county and in that way during his four years of office became acquainted with practically every resident. Toward the close of his four year term a friend from over in Jackson Township urged him to become a candidate for the office of county auditor. He was put on the democratic ticket of 1870, and was elected, thus stepping from one county office into the other. Mr. Blue has always felt extremely grateful to the people of Wells County for the confidence they manifested in his judgment and ability at different times, but it is the general opinion that he has given full value received for every honor bestowed upon him. He filled many minor offices, such as constable, assessor, notary public and finally was accorded two terms of membership in the State Legislature. He represented his county with distinction and was author of or instrumental in the passage of many valuable laws.

After retiring from his second term in the Legislature in 1895 Mr. Blue resolved fully never again to accept an office of any kind or to engage in political strife. He had learned that lesson which most men who are in public affairs learn sooner or later that no one can be a successful politician and at all time do unto others as he would have them do unto him. He therefore settled down to the business of farming, and spent most of his time looking after his 400 acres of farm land, in handling the crops, raising stock and buying and shipping livestock. In 1910, when his youngest son married, the parents put him on the home place and then moved to Tocsin, where it was their intention to give over their strenuous labors and take life leisurely. Soon after he retired Mrs. Blue was taken ill and was moved for treatment to the hospital at Fort Wayne, where the best medical skill was employed. Mr. Blue was informed that medical science could not avail and he was advised to take Mrs. Blue back home and employ a trained nurse and give her the best of care to make her comfortable. She passed away in February, 1912, in the blessed assurance of immortality and salvation through a Saviour's love. Thus a companionship of rare felicity and mutual benefit was ended which had begun forty-six years before. Since the death of his wife Mr. Blue has found solace in his children and in attending church at Emmaus Church almost every Sunday and acting as class leader and teaching the Men's Bible Class. At one time Mr. Blue was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Bluffton.

Mr. Blue had a prominent part in establishing the town of his present residence. In 1882 he surveyed the Village of Tocsin, gave it its name, and made the application for a postoffice there. His farm lands are close to the village, and some years ago he laid out an addition to the town.

Though it was written fourteen years ago, the sketch already referred to contains a tribute to Mr. Blue which is still essentially true. "He has traveled much and read deeply, and is possessed of good memory and a most commendable habit of observation which has stored his mind with facts ever convenient to be drawn upon. He is a fluent speaker, who on occasions rises even to eloquence. In private conversation he is delightfully companionable, a man whom the most casual acquaintance would treat with deference, and whom the stranger would readily mark as a personage of deserved prominence."

JOHN KENNEDY. In every community situated in an agricultural section, may be found retired farmers, men whose active agricultural life is over but who retain a deep interest in the continued operation of their farms and from their long experience can give valuable advice to others. One of the well known retired farmers of Chester Township is John Kennedy, who also is an honored veteran of the great Civil war, and a valued member of Montpelier Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

John Kennedy was born in Ireland, March 1, 1836. His father, Jeremiah Kennedy, was twice married and his first and second wives were both natives of Ireland. His first wife died in Ireland and his second wife accompanied him to the United States in 1839. They stopped for a short time near Cincinnati, Ohio, and then came to Indiana and Jeremiah Kennedy bought eighty acres of land in Chester Township, Wells County, and during the rest of his life was engaged in clearing and improving it. In the course of time he became an American citizen and later identified himself with the democratic party. He was always a faithful member of the Roman Catholic Church. To his first marriage three sons and one daughter were born. Of this family of four, John Kennedy is the only survivor. Of the three children born to his second marriage but one survives, Winnie, who is the widow of William Fitzpatrick, residing near Poneto, Indiana.

John Kennedy was only three years old when the family came to the United States. He grew up on his father's farm, attending the district schools as opportunity offered. Like many another young man of that period, the outbreak of the Civil war caused a great change to come into his life, but the country's military record shows that the farms contributed the bravest and most dependable soldiers of that long struggle. Mr. Kennedy enlisted in September, 1861, in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and after serving for two years, he veteranized and remained in the service until the close of the war. Although he faced danger on every side and took part in many battles, Mr. Kennedy escaped sickness and wounds and was able to return practically unharmed. He has taken much interest in the Grand Army Post at Montpelier ever since it was established.

Mr. Kennedy was married to Miss Lucinda Harris, who was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, October 24, 1845, a member of one of the old families of the county. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy settled on the farm in Chester Township on which they still live and for many years Mr. Kennedy conducted it with great success, and when he retired it was to leave it in the hands of his capable sons. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy have a home of great comfort, pleasantly situated on the farm of ninety acres. They have four children: Frank, Nettie, Laura and Arthur, all residing at home. The entire family belongs to the Roman Catholic Church at Montpelier. Mr. Kennedy has always taken an interest in public matters in the township and has given his political support to the candidates of the democratic party.

SANFORD H. TEMPLIN. No man in Wells County stands higher in general esteem than does Sanford H. Templin, a substantial farmer of Nottingham Township, and a director of the Bank of Petroleum. His life history presents much that is interesting and the perseverance and industry with which he overcame handicaps, indicate clearly very important elements of his character.

Sanford H. Templin was born October 11, 1845, in Henry County, Indiana. His parents were Terry and Rachel (Johnson) Templin. His father was born in Highland County, Ohio, a son of Robert and Eunice Templin, both born in Ohio but of English extraction. When Terry Templin married Rachel Johnson, he married into a Welsh family and secured a most estimable wife. They settled on a farm in Ohio but in 1830 moved to Delaware County, Indiana, his parents accompanying him, and they all located in the same neighborhood, but Robert Templin and his wife died in old age in Howard County, Indiana.

For a number of years Terry Templin followed farming and then embarked in a manufacturing business, opening a small factory, foundry and shop at Blountsville, where he manufactured agricultural implements and if he had possessed a larger working capital, would have been a successful business man. As it was, when his death occurred, January 23, 1855, he left his widow and the survivors of their family of thirteen children, with little means. The children of Terry Templin and wife were as follows: Sarah A., born February 23, 1829, deceased; Nancy J., born November 3, 1830, deceased; Mary E., born December 5, 1832, deceased; Lancey J., born December 20, 1834, deceased, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Eunice, born December 30, 1836, deceased; Catherine, born March 5, 1838, wife of Ephraim Carey, of Dallas, Texas; Elizabeth, deceased, born May 24, 1843, was wife of Alexander Chalfant; Grace A., wife of William Falkner, of Nottingham, Township, Wells County; Sanford H.; Rachel L., born October 17, 1847, deceased; Charles E., born July 10, 1851; Asenath A., born June 24, 1854, wife of F. M. Campbell, of Randolph County, Indiana and Letitia, deceased. The mother of the above family died April 17, 1884.

Sanford H. Templin attended school in both Henry and Delaware counties but his father died when he was ten years old and heavy responsibility fell on his young shoulders. He was naturally a cheerful and industrious boy and had no difficulty in securing work from the neighboring farmers but when, in the natural course of events he found himself anxious to start a home of his own, he found that the support of his father's family had exhausted his earnings. He had chosen a noble woman, however, for his companion, one who showed confidence in his ability and good judgment, and on February 4, 1865, the wedding of Sanford H. Templin and Judith M. Faulkner took place. She was born in Randolph County, Indiana, January 16, 1847, a daughter of Solomon and Ruth (Bales) Faulkner. Solomon Faulkner was born in Virginia, March 26, 1799, and his parents were David and Judith Faulkner, natives of Wales. In 1825 he married Ruth Bales, who was born August 26, 1808, a daughter of John and Lois Bales. In 1828 Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner settled on a farm in Randolph County, Indiana, and lived there during the rest of their lives. They had fourteen children, as follows: Isaiah M., born September 16, 1826, died August 27, 1895; Nathan, born November 29, 1827, died January 27, 1895; Jason and Jabert, twins, born November 22, 1829; Jabert died the same day but Jason lived until October 21, 1834; Mary, born January 15, 1832, is the widow of Jacob Booker; Rachel, born December 27, 1833, is the widow of Henry Hill; Jesse, born January 21, 1836; Phoebe J. and Betsey E., twins, born March 17, 1838, former is the wife of Aaron H. Pucket, the

latter died December 7, 1882; John A., born November 29, 1841; William, born September 13, 1842, a resident of Wells County; Lois A., born May 25, 1844, is the wife of William Williams; Judith, who is the wife of Mr. Templin; and Martha E., who was born June 2, 1849, died February 22, 1854.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Templin located near Windsor, in Randolph County, where Mr. Templin bought nine acres and bound the agreement by paying a small sum and afterward by chopping cord wood paid the rest of the price, and spent two years scoring timber to be used in building bridges. As a wedding present the father of Mrs. Templin gave her a cow, three sheep and a half dozen chickens and the necessary household utensils. Not to be outdone by her husband in industry, during the first year on the farm, Mrs. Templin took 125 pounds of wool from her sheep, and with her own busy hands carded and spun it and turned it over to a weaver and it was made into cloth for the use of her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Templin remained on the farm he had secured through a trade with his brother for three years, and then traded his interest for a place of eighty acres, thereby incurring an indebtedness of $400. He cleared and improved this land and did a large amount of ditching, and this work aided in making him an advocate of township draining and he was one of the chief promoters of the construction of the Wilson Creek ditch. As time went on he added to his holdings until now he has an exceedingly valuable farm of 160 acres, the result of hard work and frugality. At the time of marriage he declared he would always own a place of his own and never pay rent and he has brought this to pass through his good management.

Mr. and Mrs. Templin have had three children, namely: Letitia Jane, who was born November 8, 1865, died December 31, 1909, the wife of George Chenoweth; Carey, who was born November 27, 1867, is a farmer in Nottingham Township; and George, who was born March 20, 1870, married Ollie Settle, and they live in Nottingham Township. Mr. and Mrs. Templin have ten living grandchildren and two living great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Templin have been active in the United Brethren Church to which all the family belong. Mr. Templin is influential in the republican party, has served as a member of the county central committee and has been a delegate to state conventions.

Henry E. Johns is the present trustee of Nottingham Township and a citizen of high standing and of many business relationships with that section of Wells County. Mr. Johns is a farmer and stockman and has spent practically all his life in this county.

He was born in Harrison Township near Vera Cruz July 5, 1870, a son of John S. and Trissa (Haughton) Johns. His father was a native of Ohio and his mother of Adams County, Indiana. John S. Johns was brought to Wells County by his parents when he was two years of age. The grandparents located on a farm near Vera Cruz, taking up the land from the Government, and spent the rest of their days there. John S. Johns grew up in that locality when everything was comparatively new and rough, and after reaching his majority bought a farm nearby. He did business on an extensive scale as a trader in land, and owned real estate here and elsewhere. His death occurred in Arkansas, while his wife died in Harrison Township of Wells County. The father was a democrat. There were in the family four sons and five daughters, and five are still living: Lenora, a graduate of the common schools and now pursuing her profession as a graduate nurse at Bluffton; Alonzo, a farmer in Arkansas; Roswell, a farmer in Union Township of Wells

County; Cora, wife of J. D. Dyson of Nottingham Township, and Henry E.

Henry E. Johns lived on his father's farm until he was ten years of age, and after that was in the home of his uncle, George Sinnison, for whom he worked and as opportunity afforded attended the district schools of Adams County. At the age of seventeen he started out to make his own living, at first as a wage earner by the month and later for a time he drove a huckster wagon.

On September 17, 1893, Mr. Johns married Miss Clara King. Her parents, Adam and Elizabeth King, are both now deceased. Mrs. Johns received her early education in School District No. 3 of Nottingham Township. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Johns lived on the King farm a year, then for four years lived south of Reiffsburg, and then bought their present farm of a little more than sixty-one acres and later acquired 140 acres in section 8 of Nottingham Township. Mr. Johns has come to prosperity through the avenue of hard work and honest dealing, and is now enjoying a liberal prosperity. As a stockman he specializes somewhat in high grade Belgian horses and some of his animals were awarded the first premium at the Bluffton Street Fair. He is also one of the directors of the Bank of Petroleum, of which Amos Williams is president, Samuel Warner, vice president, and Henry Shott, cashier. Mr. Johns is also a stockholder in the Poneto Farmers Elevator Company.

He has taken quite an active interest in democratic politics, but even more in the substantial welfare of his community, and it was a general recognition on the part of his fellow citizens of his qualifications that caused him to be elected trustee of Nottingham Township. He has filled that office since January, 1915, and his administrative work in connection with the public schools has been especially creditable.

Mrs. Johns is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Reiffsburg. They have two sons. Raymond, a graduate of the common schools and the Petroleum High School, was a teacher for two years but is now a soldier in the National Army, having enlisted at Louisville, Kentucky. Fred F., born in April, 1898, has also finished the work of the Petroleum High School.

William A. Lee. To the present generation of Wells County at least William A. Lee is a citizen too well known to require any introduction. He has been a resident of the county practically all his life, has been a farmer, educator, lawyer and deputy prosecutor and represents one of the old and substantial names of this section of Indiana.

He was born in Nottingham Township August 20, 1855, a son of Alexander and Susanna (Tracy) Lee. His father was born in Virginia September 5, 1824, and the mother in Perry County, Ohio, in 1828. Alexander Lee settled in Wells County at an early day, and acquired a substantial property as a farmer and was also honored with the office of county commissioner and for many years was a leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Poneto. He was Sunday School superintendent there for over sixteen years. His death occurred in 1907 and his wife passed away in 1897. They had ten children, six of whom are still living.

William A. Lee spent his boyhood days on a farm, got his education in district schools, and attended the County Normal at Bluffton. When only seventeen he was granted his first license as a teacher, and he taught school in this county until 1882. While teaching he took up the study of law, and for a number of years he also filled the office of justice of the peace. He has been in active practice since 1898, and has filled the office of deputy prosecuting attorney since the election of Aaron Waltz

to the office of chief prosecutor. Mr. Lee also owns 100 acres of land constituting a good farm, and has many interests that identify him with the county of his nativity.

On December 29, 1880, he married Miss Emma R. McFarren, who was born in Wells County, youngest sister of the prominent Bluffton business man, George E. McFarren. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have three children. Carl A., who acquired a good education in the common schools and in a commercial college, was a teacher but is now a practical farmer. He married Cecile Kiser. Grace S. was a teacher for a number of years and is now the wife of Levi J. Nutter. Ralph C. married Grace Fleming and lives in Nottingham Township. Mr. William A. Lee is an active democrat and has always been affiliated with that party in his political efforts.

THOMAS J. SETTLE. For forty-six years the name of Settle has been an honored one in Nottingham Township, Wells County, always representing sturdy, honest and industrious people, good citizens and supporters of education and religion. It was founded by one of the finest men this section has ever known, the late Winfield S. Settle, who was the father of Thomas J. Settle, one of the township's prosperous farmers and respected men. The latter was born on his father's homestead in Nottingham Township, October 28, 1878, and is a son of Winfield S. and Elizabeth (Albertson) Settle.

Winfield Scott Settle was born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, November 20, 1841, and was a son of Josiah and Nancy A. (Graves) Settle, both of whom were natives of North Carolina. On the paternal side the ancestry was Scotch-Irish and on the maternal was German. In 1847 the grandparents of Thomas J. Settle moved to Ohio and settled in Butler County, where the grandfather died in 1869 and the grandmother removed from there to Richmond, Indiana, in 1877 and died there. While still living in Butler County, Winfield S. Settle became a soldier in the Union Army, on January 26, 1864, enlisting for service in the Civil war in Company F, Eighty-fourth Indiana Infantry. Later he was transferred to the Fifty-seventh Regiment, the enlistment term of the Eighty-fourth having expired, and he remained in military service until the close of the war. He took part in many battles, these including Tunnel Hill, Resaca, Kingston, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Neal Dow Church, Peach Tree Creek, Vining Station, and after a short furlough on account of sickness, he was with his regiment at Lookout Mountain and through the campaign in the southwest. He received his final discharge at Indianapolis, Indiana, having done his full duty as a soldier, and reached his home in Ohio in January, 1866.

In 1869 Mr. Settle came to Wells County, Indiana, securing a partly cleared farm in section 30. Nottingham Township, and he made this his home during the rest of his life. He developed a fine farm here through prudence and industry, and he became one of the leading citizens, a man whose honesty was never questioned and whose word at all times was as valuable as a legal document. In politics he was influential in the republican party and he was one of the most active and most liberal members in the United Brethren Church. He was married, April 24, 1869, to Elizabeth Albertson, who was born in Adams County, Indiana, a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann (Brown) Albertson, natives respectively of Randolph and Jay counties, Indiana. To Winfield S. Settle and his wife the following children were born: Anna, William H., Olive, Winfield A., Thomas J., James E., Charles C., Walter B., Hazel, who is the wife of Hugh Gehrett, of Nottingham Township, and one deceased.

Thomas J. Settle remained at home with his father until he was eighteen years of age, in the meanwhile attending school near the home farm during the winter seasons. About that time a new industry in this part of Indiana began to attract industrious young men and Mr. Settle also went to work in the oil fields and continued to be employed there for twelve years, during the most of the time as an oil pumper. Since then Mr. Settle has been engaged in general farming on eighty acres of the old homestead which he owns, and he also gives considerable attention to breeding Chester White hogs, in which industry he has been very successful.

Mr. Settle was married August 20, 1904, to Miss Iva Shepherd, who was born and reared in Randolph County, Indiana. She is a daughter of Ezra and Mary (Study) Shepherd. Mr. and Mrs. Settle have had three children, the two survivors being: Lloyd A., who was born December 25, 1907; and Richard, who was born August 26, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Settle are members of the United Brethren Church at Phoenix, Indiana. In politics Mr. Settle is a republican from principle, never having any desire for public office as a reward of his loyalty.

George Templin. Perhaps at no time in the country's history has every agricultural interest been of so much importance as at the present and it is the capable, industrious farmer who has the opportunity of not only reaping just returns for his hard work, but of also demonstrating a spirit of generous patriotism that entitles him to the gratitude of the rest of the country. One of the excellent farmers and representative citizens of Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, is George Templin, whose carefully cultivated farm shows that good judgment regulates affairs here. Mr. Templin is a native of Indiana, born in Randolph County, March 20, 1870. He is a son of S. H. and Judith M. (Faulkner) Templin.

The parents of Mr. Templin came to Wells County when he was one year old and he grew up on the farm on which his father still resides. He attended the district schools in early boyhood and later on, when his strength permitted, assisted on the farm through the summers and attended school in the winters. With his time thus pleasantly and usefully divided he remained with his father until his marriage, when he began farming for himself on a tract of forty acres, on which he continued for two years. At that time workers were in demand in the Blackford County oil fields, and as wages were high Mr. Templin went to work at Montpelier and continued connected with the oil industry for six years, when changed conditions came about and in 1902 he moved back to Wells County.

Upon his return to this section, Mr. Templin decided to resume agricultural operations and soon purchased his present farm which he has developed into one of the best properties in the county. He has made many improvements and these include the erection of the substantial and attractive farm buildings and the introduction in them of many comforts and modern conveniences. He devotes his attention to general farming.

Mr. Templin was married January 28, 1893, to Miss Olive Settle, who was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, December 6, 1873, and was educated in the local schools and the high school at Montpelier. She is a daughter of Winfield S. and Elizabeth (Albertson) Settle. The father of Mrs. Templin died in March, 1903. Her mother resides in Nottingham Township, near Phoenix, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Templin have two children, a son and daughter, Lawrence E. and Helen. The former is a graduate of the Petroleum High School and

attended normal schools at Muncie and Angola and is one of the successful and popular teachers at Petroleum. He married Mary Pontius, who is a daughter of John Pontius, a well known resident of Adams County, Indiana. They have one child, Virginia Nell, who was born October 1, 1917. Miss Helen is also a graduate of the high school at Petroleum. Mr. Templin and his family belong to the United Brethren Church at Petroleum and take active part in its various agencies for good. Mr. Templin is a stanch republican in politics because he believes thoroughly in its principles.

Andrew B. Williams has been a resident of Wells County thirty years, and has been substantially identified with the farming and agricultural enterprise of this county ever since. His home is a well situated and admirably improved little farm on Rural Route No. 2 from Keystone in Chester Township.

Mr. Williams was born in Blackford County, Indiana, March 17, 1866, a son of Andrew B. and Polly (Bugh) Williams, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Blackford County, Indiana, where they married after he came out of Ohio. Their home was on a farm in Blackford County, and they were parents of ten children, five sons and five daughters: Andrew B.; Henry, deceased; Joseph and Oliver of Montpelier; Jennie, wife of Scott Swartz; Lydia, wife of George Brubaker; Sarah, wife of Lewis G. Lancaster; Mary, wife of Charles McGeath; James and Emma, both deceased.

Andrew B. Williams was reared on a farm, was educated in district schools in his native county and lived at home until his father died. For his first wife Mr. Williams married Esther Shields, daughter of William Shields. She died childless, and for his second wife he married Elizabeth Cook, widow of J. Cook. Mrs. Williams is a native of Wells County, and daughter of John J. Twibell, was educated here in the common schools, and was the mother of one child, now deceased. She is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Montpelier. Mr. Williams is a republican voter.

Ralph C. Thomas, a soldier of the Spanish-American war, is superintendent of the Elm Grove Cemetery, of Bluffton. The cemetery association was incorporated in 1902, and in 1905 Mr. Thomas entered upon his duties as superintendent. It is largely due to his good management and efficient care that this has become one of the finest burial places of the dead in the entire county.

Mr. Thomas was born at Bluffton in Harrison Township of Wells County July 4, 1879, a son of William E. and Jennie (Cole) Thomas. His father was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1853, and the mother was born July 12, 1855. William E. Thomas accompanied his parents to Wells County, Indiana, about 1856. His father Eli Thomas located on a farm three-quarters of a mile southeast of Murray and was a well known citizen in that community for many years, being prominent in the democratic party and served as trustee of Lancaster Township. William E. Thomas grew up on the old home farm and in early life he taught school in Wells County. After his marriage he located at Travesville and conducted a general store for three years. In 1877 he moved to Bluffton and established the Star Bakery, an institution still enjoying a flourishing existence and still conducted under the old name. He continued giving his personal attention to this business until his death in 1884. William E. Thomas was a man of quiet and unassuming disposition, sought none of the conspicuous honors of politics or of public life, but had the faculty of binding to himself scores of close and intimate

friends. His only fraternity was the Knights of Honor of which he was a charter member. He and his wife had five children: Maude, deceased, who married J. S. Grames; Ralph C.; Effie, wife of H. R. Curtner, of Marion, Indiana; Gertrude, wife of Harry Steele, of Seattle, Washington; and Cora, wife of Alfred Schmuch, of Kendallville, Indiana.

Ralph C. Thomas was over five years of age when his father died, and he and his oldest sister Maude were then taken into the family of George DeLong of Lancaster Township. Mr. DeLong was a real father to him and Mr. Thomas, who is a man who never forgets a kindness, has always shown the greatest of gratitude to the memory of this good old Wells County citizen. Mr. DeLong was born in Ohio and came to Wells County as a pioneer in 1842, settling northeast of Bluffton where he entered 160 acres of land. He was an old soldier, having enlisted in Company A Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry with Captain Swain, and was with his regiment through most of its service. At the battle of Champion Hill during the Vicksburg campaign he was wounded. Mr. DeLong was an active republican and passed away November 7, 1899.

Ralph C. Thomas acquired his principal early education in the old Toll Gate School. He learned the lessons of loyalty from the lips of his adopted father, and at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war enlisted in Company E, 160th Indiana Infantry. He was in service one year, and the regiment was part of the expeditionary forces to the island of Cuba, where it remained three months. After the war Mr. Thomas returned to farm life, and in the fall of 1899 married Miss Ethel L. Masterson, daughter of Henry and Rebecca (Kunkel) Masterson. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have six children: Howard E., Dorothy, Mary and Martha, twins, Catherine and Ruth. Howard was graduated from the high school of Bluffton with the class of 1917. Mr. Thomas is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church while his wife belongs to the Christian denomination. He has filled all the offices except that of worshipful master in Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He has been active in county politics as a republican even before he was twenty-one years of age, and has done much to keep up and maintain the party organization.

Mandeville W. McClain, M. D. One of the leading medical practitioners and able surgeons of Wells County is Dr. Mandeville W. McClain, who has a satisfactory practice at Vera Cruz, where he is one of the prominent and public spirited citizens. Doctor McClain was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, November 16, 1871, and is a son of Robert and Caroline (Kelly) McClain.

Robert McClain came of Scotch ancestry and was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1848. He accompanied his parents when they moved to Wells County, Indiana, and grew to the age of fifteen years on the home farm in Nottingham Township. Although far too young to be subjected to the dangers and hardships of a soldier's life, he enlisted in 1863 in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, under Captain McGlaughter, and did a man's service until the war closed. He returned then to Wells County and soon afterward was married to Miss Caroline Kelly, whose father, Edward Kelly, was a man of unusual ability.

Edward Kelly was born in the City of Dublin, Ireland, and in boyhood came to the United States with an uncle. He was bound out to learn a trade but managed to secure so thorough a knowledge of law, studying by himself, that he gained admission to the bar and went into practice in the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. Later he moved to Warren,

Ohio, where he married and there engaged for a time in the mercantile business, but failing health caused him to sell his interests there and he came then with his family to Wells County and was a farmer here until his death. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Robert McClain later moved to a farm near Fiat, in Jay County, Indiana, on which he remained for a number of years engaged in agricultural pursuits, and then retired to the Village of Pennville. He and wife reared a family of six children, as follows: Emma, who is a graduate of the Pennville High School, is the wife of H. R. Rosenkrans, of Red Key, Indiana; Robert R., who is a graduate of the Pennville schools and also a graduate in the art of telegraphy, is now a farmer near Fiat, Indiana; L. H., who is a farmer in Jay County, and Mandeville, who resides at Vera Cruz, two being deceased.

Through boyhood Mandeville W. McClain attended the country schools and assisted on the home farm. He early decided upon his future professional career and bent every energy to secure adequate medical training, and after attending the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, was graduated from that institution in 1896 with his coveted degree, having previously completed a medical course at Marion, Indiana. Since then, as a progressive practitioner he has attended various scientific schools of his profession and taken post graduate courses, and was graduated from the Chicago Polyclinic School of Medicine, where he had taken special courses. It is doubtful if Doctor McClain will ever feel that he knows all there is to learn in his noble science for he recognizes the mighty progress it is making almost daily, but he is a close student and understands how to apply new methods in practice and to make use of the marvelous discoveries that scientific investigation has brought to light, and his patients profit thereby.

Doctor McClain came to Vera Cruz on May 12, 1897, from his first professional field at Bluffton, and through medical knowledge and surgical skill, has built up a fine practice. He belongs to Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, and to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 796. He is a member of the Wells County, Indiana State and American Medical societies.

In politics, like his father before him, he is a democrat and as a good citizen is interested in all local matters that concern the health and wellbeing of the general public. He is the owner of the fine trotter, Alacer B., with a record of 2:14½ and trial mile of 2:10, and has refused numerous fancy prices for the animal.

Doctor McClain was married November, 1900, to Miss Blanche B. North, who was born in Vera Cruz and was a teacher here and also in the high school of Bluffton for a number of years.

Samuel Warner. It is to be noted that among the prosperous agriculturists of Wells County, there are many whose names are associated with prominent financial interests. These connections are desirable and tend to lend stability to the banking institutions, particularly in a fertile agricultural country, where the bank's representative forms a connecting link between the institution and the farmers, who form the greater number of depositors. One of these farmer-bankers is Samuel Warner, who in addition to being the owner of a handsome property, is vice president and a director of the Bank of Petroleum.

Mr. Warner was born on a farm in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, February 28, 1852, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Gehrett) Warner. His parents, natives of Pickaway County, Ohio, grew up, were educated, and married in that community, and there they resided for several years. The father, however, was desirous of seeking

another location where his prospects for success would be brighter, and accordingly made several trips on foot to Wells County, Indiana, looking over the territory. Finally he decided upon a farm in Nottingham Township, and here he brought his wife, they making their way through the woods and bringing their small household effects. Through industry, energy and perseverance they succeeded in making a home and cultivating a property and here rounded out their long and honorable lives in the pursuits of farming. They were faithful members of the German Baptist Church and held a place in the esteem and confidence of their fellow-townspeople, Mr. Warner serving for some years as supervisor and trustee of his township. Of their children, the following survive: George L., ex-county commissioner of Wells County; Jonathan, a resident of Arizona; Samuel, of this notice; Jacob, whose home is in Chicago; Henry, a resident of Nottingham Township; Eva, the wife of George King, of Petroleum, Indiana, and Andrew, who makes his home in Florida.

Samuel Warner was educated in the district schools of Nottingham Township, and, reared to the vocation of farming, has never followed any other line of work. Through good management, attention to business and plenty of energetic work, he has succeeded in the accumulation of a good property and the development of a valuable and productive farm and is today justly accounted one of the substantial men of his locality and one whose success has been gained only through the utilization of natural abilities and legitimate means. At the organization of the Bank of Petroleum, he became a director in that institution, and today also holds the position of vice president, in which capacity he has had a share in promoting its welfare and directing it to success. Politically, he is a democrat. He has been somewhat prominent in civic affairs, and for six years was a member of the Wells County Council.

Mr. Warner was married in December, 1876, to Miss Louisa Keller, who was born in Ohio and there reared and educated. When a young woman she was brought by her parents to Nottingham Township, where she met and married Mr. Warner. They are the parents of the following children: Doctor Elmer, a graduate of the State Normal School, taught school for several years and then took up the study of medicine, receiving his degree in 1917; Miss Nettie, who is single and makes her home with her parents; Albert, who is married and a worker in the oil fields of Oklahoma; Henry A., at home with his father; and Stella, the wife of R. L. Bond, of Hamilton, Illinois.

Leo H. Marquart is the leading merchant of Murray, the oldest village in Wells County. The settlement was also known as Lancaster and sometimes called New Lancaster. The first settlers there located at the beginning of the decade of the '30s, and the village was laid out in October, 1839. The town is pleasantly situated on the north bank of the Wabash River and doubtless would have become an important city but for the rivalry of Bluffton and the fact that the railroads passed it by.

Mr. Marquart was born at the Village of Murray October 25, 1894, and is a son of W. H. and Jennie (Harnish) Marquart. The father is now engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton. W. H. Marquart came to Wells County from Adams County, while the mother was born in Bluffton. They have two sons, Walter and Leo H.

Leo H. Marquart grew up and received a good education, and for a young man only twenty-three years of age has made a commendable record in business affairs. He conducts a first class general store at Murray and keeps a full line of merchandise including dry goods, shoes, groceries, hardware, drugs, and automobile supplies. He is a good busi-

ness man, very industrious, accommodating and has the complete confidence of all the people in that district of the county.

Mr. Marquart votes as a republican, is a member of the Reformed Church and is affiliated with Lodge No. 92 of the Knights of Pythias at Bluffton.

October 7, 1915, he married Miss Tessie Wilcoxson, daughter of L. E. and Mary Wilcoxson of Wells County. Her father is still living and her mother is now deceased. Mrs. Marquart has a sister Bessie, wife of Ernest Landis of Huntington, Indiana, and a brother Donald, unmarried. Mr. and Mrs. Marquart have one child, Mary Jane, born in 1916.

James S. Lockwood. A substantial farmer and highly respected and well known citizen of Wells County, Indiana, is James S. Lockwood, who was born not far from Keystone, Indiana, June 24, 1865. His parents were James Edwin and Frances (Blackledge) Lockwood, natives of Ohio. Of their children the following are living: James S., J. P., Austin and Charles, the deceased being Vora and Wesley.

James S. Lockwood was reared on the home farm and attended the country schools. He remained at home until his marriage, which took place in Wells County, to Miss Ida M. Hiestand, who was a native of Jay County, Indiana, in which state she was educated. They have had five children, the three living being as follows: Flossie, who is the wife of Edgar H. Barrington, a farmer; Zarpha, who is the wife of Floyd Shoemaker; and Lewis M. All the children have had good school advantages.

After his marriage James S. Lockwood farmed his father-in-law's place for two years and then moved on a place near Petroleum where he bought forty acres, later added twenty acres and still later buying forty acres more, still further dealings being in the purchase and sale of other tracts. He now has a fine farm of 151 acres, all of which he has acquired through his industry and good management.

Mr. Lockwood has long been an active Christian worker and has a preacher's license in the Methodist Episcopal Church and officiates as a local preacher. In politics he is a republican.

James Edwin Lockwood, father of James S. Lockwood, is a retired farmer living in Nottingham Township, Wells County. He was born in Champaign County, Ohio, April 12, 1842, a son of Alonzo and Eliza (Stanley) Lockwood. His father was a native of Maine and his mother of Pennsylvania and their people came to Champaign County, Ohio. The parents of Mr. Lockwood came to Indiana and located in Wells County and in February, 1846, bought land in Nottingham Township. It was then in the woods and from this wilderness Alonzo Lockwood carved out a farm. He and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They had nine children and those living in 1917 are: George A., James Edwin, Stanley, Alonzo, Charles and Ann, who is the widow of Lum Clevinger.

James Edwin Lockwood was four years old when he was brought to Wells County and as he grew in strength he gave his father assistance in clearing the pioneer farm and remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Lockwood was married July 31, 1863, to Frances A. Blackledge, who was born on her father's farm in Nottingham Township, May 3, 1845, a daughter of Joseph and Susan (Christman) Blackledge, natives of Ohio. Her paternal grandfather was one of the first three settlers in this township and he died here, but Mrs. Lockwood's parents subsequently moved to Nebraska, where her father died. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood have the following children: James S., who is a farmer in Nott-

ingham Township; Joseph P., who is a farmer also in Nottingham Township; Arthur, who lives at Uniondale; Elias, who lives in Nottingham Township; Luella S., who is the wife of Samuel Neher, of this township; and the youngest son is Charles.

Mr. Lockwood and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and he is a member of the board of trustees. In politics he has always been a republican. He owns eighty acres of well improved land, his business always having been farming. He has some additional interests, however, and is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank at Keystone, Indiana. The Lockwood family has always been one of the sturdy, upright families of this section, law abiding people who have worked in the cause of education and religion.

Charles T. Eversole. Many of the best farmers in Wells County are located in Lancaster Township, where local pride is shown as is evidenced in substantial and attractive buildings, and where richly cultivated fields prove their owners to be industrious. One of these well tilled farms belongs to Charles T. Eversole, one of the township's most respected citizens.

Charles T. Eversole was born in Wells County, Indiana, April 14, 1855. His parents were Jacob and Susannah A. (Miller) Eversole. His father was born in Lancaster Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, October 14, 1824, and died February 24, 1906. His mother was born in Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1826, and died April 15, 1871. They came to Indiana in November, 1854, traveling in pioneer fashion, and settled on a tract of eighty acres in Lancaster Township, not far from Bluffton. Later they sold that and then moved into Rock Creek Township and bought eighty acres there and that continued the home of Mr. Eversole's parents as long as they lived. They had the following children: William H., Mary Ellen, deceased, Jacob M., Clara, Charles T., Wilson S., Laura S., deceased, Louise, Frank P., Zena Jefferson, Sarah Catherine, Laura, deceased. They were all carefully reared and were taught from childhood the value of industry and the principles of right living.

Charles T. Eversole attended the district schools in boyhood and grew up on his father's farm and has made farming his main business in life. Years of experience have taught him the most profitable methods and he is progressive enough to make use of good machinery and to keep thoroughly abreast of the times in modern agricultural development. Mr. Eversole owns forty acres, on which he carries on general farming and raises some stock. He has everything very comfortable for himself and family, having put up new buildings since he purchased the place, which was already cleared, on March 1, 1905.

Mr. Eversole was married November 21, 1879, to Miss Anna M. Myers, who is a daughter of Jacob and Martha Myers. Mrs. Eversole had the following brothers and sisters: Simeon, Joseph, Orrin, Benjamin, James, William, Martha, deceased, Elizabeth, deceased, Lucy, and Louise and Sarah, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eversole the following children have been born: Leroy, who married Emma Otto, of Hammond, Indiana; Zepha May, at home; Pearl, who is the wife of Fred Houtz, a farmer in Lancaster Township; and Susan Martha, and Frances Hazel, both of whom live at home. Mr. Eversole and his son vote with the democratic party. They are both sound, reliable, upright men and good citizens, but neither have been seekers for political office. Mr. Eversole belongs to Lodge No. 259, Knights of Pythias, at Uniondale, Indiana.

Amos W. Sawyer is a native of Wells County and is now usefully and successfully employed as a practical farmer in Nottingham Township. His home is on rural route No. 7 out of Bluffton. Mr. Sawyer has improved and developed his eighty acres and besides raising the staple crops in this state is handling some first class livestock. He has always borne the reputation of being a hard working man in his business and a public spirited citizen in connection with every local movement for improvement and betterment. His farm is in section 16 of Nottingham Township.

Mr. Sawyer was born in a log cabin in Nottingham Township September 5, 1862, a son of John A. and Malinda (Warner) Sawyer. The father was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1833, and lived to the venerable age of eighty-four years. His death occurred January 10, 1918. His first wife, Malinda Warner, was born in Ohio and died in 1866. By their marriage there were three children: Amos W.; George W., of Grand Rapids, Minnesota; and Malinda, who was never married and is living at home. The Sawyer family came to Wells County in 1857, and for many years John A. Sawyer was a practical and industrious farmer, and has always been identified with the Evangelical Church. He married for his second wife Lucinda Shoemaker. The children of that marriage were: William H., deceased; Elizabeth E., who married W. H. Leist; Mary E., wife of Milt Zoll; Andrew J., who lives in Nottingham Township; Clara A., wife of L. E. Deam of Bluffton; Cora A., wife of Charles E. Taylor of Copemish, Michigan; Jennie L., wife of Oscar Thompson of Harrison Township, Wells County; Effie M., wife of John Van Emon, living near Murray; Susan, wife of Homer Crosbie of Bluffton; and two others that died in infancy.

Amos W. Sawyer spent his early life on the old homestead in Nottingham Township. Besides the advantages afforded by the district schools he attended the County Normal and also Fort Wayne College. His higher education was acquired in the intervals of his work as a teacher. Mr. Sawyer made a notable record as an educator and has to his credit seventeen terms of school taught, all of them in Nottingham Township. Since leaving the schoolroom he has made farming his regular vocation.

Mr. Sawyer married for his first wife Mary E. Strain. She was the mother of six children: Ora A., wife of Jesse Nusbaumer, and before her marriage she had graduated from the Petroleum High School and was a music teacher; Raymond E. is a graduate of the Petroleum High School and married Goldie Carney of Jay County, Indiana; Edna M. is a graduate of the high school and now the wife of John Rix of Bluffton; Esther M. has completed the high school work; Clara L. is member of the class of 1918 in the high school, and Mary E. is also in high school. The mother of these children died August 1, 1908. For his present wife Mr. Sawyer married Lida (Lockwood) Romey, widow of P. E. Romey. They are active members of the Airline Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Sawyer is a democrat.

Jacob Noah Wolfe. An extensive and profitable industry of Wells County, Indiana, is that carried on by Jacob N. Wolfe, who is proprietor of the celebrated Three-Mile Stock Farm, which is situated 2⅓ miles east of Petroleum, Indiana. Mr. Wolfe is a noted breeder of Percheron horses, Shropshire sheep, Barred Rock chickens and Mammoth brown turkeys, and in addition is one of the large farmers of this section.

Jacob N. Wolfe was born in Preble County, Ohio, September 23, 1844, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Shoup) Wolfe. His father

was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, December 8, 1793, and his mother was born April 14, 1813, in Fredrick County, Maryland. They were married in Fredrick County in 1831 and then removed to Ohio, settling near Eaton, in Preble County, and remained there until 1853, when they moved to Jay County, Indiana. They located on a farm four miles east of Pennville and that remained their home during the rest of their lives. They were quiet, industrious, worthy people. Jacob N. Wolfe is of English descent and his grandfather's oldest brother, James Wolfe, was killed at the battle of Quebec, Canada.

Jacob N. Wolfe grew up on his father's farm and assisted from boyhood and thus had excellent training in all branches of agriculture. He has been particularly successful in raising stock and for a number of years has given a great deal of attention to breeding fine Percheron horses and at the date of writing owns twenty head of pure bred registered horses, which have been exhibited and have carried off many prizes. Some noteworthy animals have been bred on this stock farm, Gomaux and Ideal, registered 59,609 and 67,829, respectively, in particular. Mr. Wolfe owns Rock Roy, French No. 98,800 and recorded No. 99,670.

Mr. Wolfe was married in Wells County, Indiana, to Miss Hannah L. Lacy, who died September 27, 1887. They had three children, but only one survives, Edward S., who was born July 20, 1867. He married Anna Settle and they live at Domestic, Indiana. June 12, 1888, Mr. Wolfe married Mary J. Reed, whose maiden name was Mary J. Weimer. Mrs. Wolfe died May 16, 1915.

In politics Mr. Wolfe is a stanch republican and has always been known as a good and reliable citizen. For many years he has been a member of the Order of Odd Fellows and belongs to Petroleum Lodge No. 721, of which he is past noble grand, and is also a member of the encampment at Bluffton.

ELI FRENCH. There are not many families entitled to honorable mention in this history because of earlier settlement in Wells County than the French family, for its founder came in 1835 and it has increased and prospered here ever since. The present head of the family still living on the old homestead, is Eli French, one of Nottingham Township's most highly respected citizens. He was born in his parents' cabin, on the banks of Six Mile Creek, in Harrison Township, February 12, 1854, and is a son of John G. and Lydia (Wiest) French.

John G. French was born in Dearborn County, Indiana, November 27, 1824, and was a son of Joseph and Eliza (Beach) French. They were natives of Massachusetts who came to Wells County, Indiana, in 1835, when John G. was eleven years old. Here he grew to manhood and his first marriage took place on February 22, 1849, to Mary Ann Heller, who died December 25, 1849, leaving one child, Mary, who became the wife of George Mowery. On March 18, 1851, John G. French was married to Lydia Wiest and the following children were born to them: Amos, Eli, Henry, William; Elizabeth, who became the wife of John Gentis; John who lives in Michigan; Hattie, who became the wife of Jethro Potter. John G. French died November 27, 1897, his wife having died October 18, 1895. Before his death Mr. French divided his land among his children, retaining only the homestead for himself. At one time he owned 500 acres or more. In many ways he was a remarkable man. He was endowed with stupendous physical strength and at the same time was gifted with a brilliant mind. For his own satisfaction he completed a course in law and was admitted to practice in the Wells Circuit Court. His retentive memory and his thorough good fellowship

rendered him a delightful companion, even in advanced years, and his reminiscences of pioneer days in this section were as interesting as any romance ever written. He had many friends for he never forgot a kindness and never failed to repay many fold. It is a privilege to thus recall one of the sturdy men of other days who was so long identified with Wells County and helped make its history.

Eli French assisted his father in boyhood and youth and attended school at Morris Chapel and remained at home until twenty-three years old, when he married. At that time Mr. French had but small capital but he bought eighty acres of land and in the course of time purchased an adjoining eighty acres, and also owns a part of the old John G. French farm. He carries on general farming and has always been considered a farmer of good judgment and practical ideas.

Mr. French was married March 25, 1877, to Miss Eliza Risley, who was born in Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, and was reared and educated there. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. French, as follows: Jennie, who is the wife of Leroy Jacob, of Harrison Township; Carrie, who is the wife of Fred Bowman, of Nottingham; Myrtle, who is the wife of Wilson Dunbar, of Linn Grove, Adams County, Indiana; Emma, who is the wife of Levi Brown, of Fort Wayne; Harriet, who is the wife of Edward Coffman, living in California; Anna, who is the wife of Guy Kindell, of Nottingham Township; Ica, who is the wife of William Grandlienard, of Adams County; Grace, who lives at home is a high school graduate; and Hazel, who is deceased.

Mr. French and family are active members of the Christian Church at Linn Grove. He is identified with the Lodge of Odd Fellows at Linn Grove, and is past noble grand of the lodge. He is a stanch democrat and a hearty supporter of party policies and candidates, but he has never been willing to serve in any public office although exceedingly well qualified because of his sound judgment and his high personal character.

Peter Frantz. One of the well known men in Wells County is the venerable Peter Frantz, who a number of years ago gave up the heavier responsibilities of his farm but still lives in the home which has so many associations for him and his family, seven miles west of Bluffton. Mr. Frantz is over fourscore years of age, was a soldier of the Civil war on the Union side, and has grown old in the honor and esteem that are the results of good citizenship, hard work and conscientious performance of duty to his fellow men. One of the most noteworthy features of his family, betokening the vigor and sound stock, is the fact that he is the father of nine children, has sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, and altogether there have been thirty-six births among his direct descendants and not a single death so far recorded.

Peter Frantz was born in Logan County, Ohio, February 27, 1836, a son of Jacob and Mary (Ebersole) Frantz. Jacob Frantz was a son of David and Elizabeth (Gaist) Frantz, and both were descended from Swiss ancestors who on coming to America located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, afterwards moved to Virginia and from there to Ohio. Peter Frantz was born after his father's death, and afterwards lived in the home of his maternal grandfather in Clark County, Ohio. At the age of fourteen he was thrown upon his own resources, and in 1853 he came to Wells County, Indiana. In 1854 he made permanent settlement here, and in 1858 acquired the farm where he now lives. On June 17, 1860, he married Mary J. First. Their lives ran side by side in mutual companionship and the bearing of their burdens and responsibilities until she passed away in July, 1915, fifty-five years after their marriage.

On August 11, 1862, Peter Frantz enlisted in Company B of the One Hundred First Indiana Infantry, and was in active service until the close of the war. He went through many battles and campaigns without wounds, and for many years has taken an active interest in the Grand Army, as a member of Bluffton Post. He and his family are all members of the Friends Church, and in politics he has been a republican without aspiration for public office. Peter Frantz by his industry at one time had accumulated 500 acres of land, but at the present time his home estate consists of 160 acres. He came to Wells County poor, made a generous prosperity for himself and family, and has lived throughout a life of admirable rectitude and of honor.

He is the father of nine children: Mary H., wife of Floyd Redding; Winfield B.; George T.; Jacob J.; John A.; Sarah A., wife of Rufus Stinson, Daniel C.; James M. and Charles S. These with their children and grandchildren constitute a family group of thirty-six, and with Mr. Peter Frantz represent four successive generations in Wells County still living.

One of the prominent members of the Frantz family still active as a farmer is Winfield B. Frantz, whose home is on route No. 1 in Liberty Township. He was born February 23, 1863, grew up on his father's home, and was early inured to the heavy discipline of farm life. Many summers as a boy he worked in the woods, hauling logs, and his education was confined to the winter terms. On April 7, 1888, he married Miss Christina V. Sowle, who was born in Liberty Township October 20, 1867, a daughter of Joshua and Lucinda (Leeper) Sowle. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Frantz located on the farm where they now live. They have two children: Glemmia, who is the wife of Max Sanders; Gerald J., the son, was educated in Warren, Indiana. Winfield Frantz is a republican in politics, and is making a success of his business as a practical farmer, with eighty acres of land under his ownership and control.

John A. Frantz, another son of the venerable Peter Frantz, also lives on Rural Route No. 1 in Liberty Township. He was born in that township and has spent practically all his life there. He received a common school education, and in November, 1898, married Mollie Connor. They have one daughter, Mary, born in February, 1900, and now a graduate of the common schools. John Frantz is a republican. His farm comprises eighty acres in section 10, Liberty Township, and he has been duly prospered in all his labors and efforts. He has the distinction of being the only owner in Wells County of a $2,000 Liberty Bond.

Abner Chalfant. There is hardly a better known name in Wells County than that of Chalfant. As a family they have lived here since pioneer times and their record through all the years shows them to have been hard and earnest workers, farmers, handling their business affairs with spirit and energy, and at the same time public spirited in all their relationship with the larger movements of the community.

This worthy record has been upheld and continued by Mr. Abner Chalfant, a successful farmer now living in Bluffton and also a banker of Poneto. Mr. Chalfant was born on a farm in Harrison Township, on the southwest quarter of section 25 in that township June 11, 1859. He is a son of Reason and Catherine (Valentine) Chalfant. Reason Chalfant was a son of Chads and Nancy (Ferguson) Chalfant. Chads Chalfant, who was born at Chads Ford in Pennsylvania, moved in early life to Ohio, married in Perry County, and in 1837 came to Indiana and located in the wilderness of Wells County. He entered the southwest quarter of section 25 of Harrison Township, and thus acquired the land

which later developed as a good farm was the scene of Abner Chalfant's birth and early rearing. Chads Chalfant was a man equal to all the emergencies and exigencies of pioneer life. He built a log cabin home and on his old farm he lived out the rest of his years. He died in February, 1883. He and his wife had the following children: Reason, Robert, Elizabeth, Lydia, Mercey, Mary and Sarah.

After his marriage Reason Chalfant settled on the old homestead, and thus kept that land within the family ownership. He was an industrious and capable farmer but otherwise was quiet and unassuming, and sought none of the honors of public life. He voted as a republican. His children were: Abner, William, now deceased, Robert D. and Clara, wife of Charles Gentes.

The early life of Abner Chalfant was spent on the old homestead, and he was a pupil in the district schools up to the age of seventeen. He made good use of his advantages while in school and soon after leaving was qualified to teach. This vocation he followed successfully until after his marriage. On September 30, 1883, Mr. Chalfant married Emma Schoch. She was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, December 1, 1858, daughter of B. W. and Elizabeth (Wann) Schoch, who came to Wells County when Mrs. Chalfant was a girl. Mrs. Chalfant grew up here and received her education in the local schools.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant rented the old homestead and in 1888 acquired it by purchase. There they lived and made the prosperity which enabled them in January, 1915, to move to the City of Bluffton, where they now enjoy the comforts of a good home. Mr. Chalfant still owns 200 acres of land in Harrison Township. He is also a stockholder and is president of the Bank of Poneto. This institution when first established had the following officers: S. C. Shepherd, president; F. M. Buckner, vice president; Robert Lee, cashier. The directors at present are Abner Chalfant, F. M. Buckner, J. N. Neff, George Toms, Horatio Grove, A. S. Brown, and Frank Gavin, all well known and substantial men of Wells County.

Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant have three children. Pearl after finishing the work of the common school, attended school at Bluffton and Marion Normal. The son, Brent, is a practical farmer and married Ida M. Captain. Harry, also a farmer in Harrison Township, is a graduate of the common schools. He married Blanche Page. Mr. Abner Chalfant and family are members of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church and he has taken much part in the work of that society. Politically he is a republican.

John B. Miller's career in Wells County has been such as to make him known as a business man, and while formerly engaged in farming he has for a number of years been a grain dealer and in that capacity has come in touch with a large number of the agricultural producers of this section. He is now head of a successful grain and elevator company at Uniondale in Rock Creek Township.

Mr. Miller was born in Rock Creek Township of this county October 30, 1871, a son of William and Susan (Bender) Miller. This is a family that has been identified with Wells County for over sixty-five years. William Miller died in February, 1897, but his widow is still living.

William Miller was born in Maryland November 3, 1824, son of Frederick and Susan (Paulus) Miller, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and of German ancestry. William Miller, who was the seventh son and eleventh child in a family of fourteen, was three years of age when his parents moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, and a number of years later the family went to Franklin County, where his father

spent the rest of his life as a farmer. William Miller had only the advantages of the subscription schools taught in a log cabin. He was about twenty-seven years of age when, in 1851, he came to Wells County. With his brother he bought a tract of 200 acres of heavily timbered land in Rock Creek Township. Possessed of energy and ambition to acquire homes of their own, they went steadily ahead with the clearing of this land and had much of it in cultivation before the Civil war broke out. During that war the brother died and the entire tract then came into the possession of William Miller. William Miller was also a brave soldier of the Union army, having enlisted August 15, 1861, in Company B of the One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry. He was out three years and had perhaps more than an average share of the experiences and hardships of soldier life. In the battle of Chickamauga September 19, 1863, he was wounded in the left hip and was captured and kept prisoner for twelve days. He rejoined his regiment May 1, 1864, and after that was with the army until the close of the rebellion. After the war he took up the active cultivation of his farm in Rock Creek Township and the management of that land was the basis of his prosperity. He was a democrat in politics before the war but afterward voted as a republican. He was elected township trustee in 1886. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. On March 3, 1859, William Miller married Susan Bender, a native of Pennsylvania but reared in Wells County from the age of about eleven years. Seven children were born to William Miller and wife: Franklin T., Barbara E., who married John Staver, William S., Lydia M., John B., Charles H., and Ada M.

John B. Miller thus grew up in one of the good rural homes of Wells County, had an education in the local schools, from which he graduated in 1887, and for the next five years was an earnest and hard working farmer.

His business career began in 1892, at the age of twenty-one, when going to Bluffton he became associated with the Studabaker & Sons Grain and Seed Company. He became one of the trusted and efficient men of that organization and continued with it until July, 1914. For several years he had been manager of the Davison Elevator at Uniondale, which he bought in 1911. In January, 1915, he moved his home to Uniondale and bought the Newhard Elevator, then organizing what is now known as the Miller & Brickley Grain Company. He is president of this company and his wife is vice president.

On November 27, 1896, Mr. Miller married Mary E. Ditzler, daughter of John R. and Catherine B. (Brickley) Ditzler. The Ditzler family is an old and prominent one of Wells County, and her uncle, George C. Ditzler, was a prominent lumberman who practically founded the village of Uniondale. Mrs. Miller's brothers and sisters are: John C., deceased; Nora, wife of C. Meyers, of Fort Wayne; and Pearl, wife of Dr. Earl Higgins, of Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a family of six children: Lela M., Mabeline, Naomi I., Mary L., Margaret Pauline, and Robert J. Robert, the youngest, is now deceased. Lela, Mabeline and Naomi are all graduates of the Bluffton High School and the other two daughters are attending the local public schools.

Rev. William H. Daniel. A man of strong personality, deep consecration, and extreme earnestness of purpose, the late Rev. William H. Daniel, of Decatur, Adams County, was for many years a recognized force in the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and was widely known throughout northern Indiana as an active and efficient worker in religious and charitable undertakings. A son of Thomas Daniel, he was

born, April 10, 1848, in Wayne County, Indiana, and died at his home, in Decatur, Indiana, February 5, 1908.

Hiram Daniel, his paternal grandfather, was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, being descended from a family of much prominence. About a century ago, he came with his wife to Indiana, settling as a pioneer in Wayne County. Buying a tract of land that was still in its virgin wilderness, he improved a good farm, and there both he and his faithful companion spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring at the age of eighty-six years, and hers at the age of ninety years. They were active members of the Methodist Church, and reared their ten children in the same faith.

Thomas Daniel grew to manhood on the home farm, and soon after attaining his majority married Louise Edwards, whose parents had come from Virginia to Wayne County about the same time that the Daniel family did, and had converted a tract of heavily timbered land, lying in the vicinity of Richmond, into a productive homestead, on which they subsequently spent their remaining days. They were Quakers in religion, and like their neighbors, the Daniel family, were very successful in their agricultural labors. They reared a large family, sixteen children, and many of the descendants of both families are still living in Indiana, in Richmond, and in Anderson.

William H. Daniel received excellent educational advantages when young, and after his graduation from the Anderson High School attended the old Fort Wayne College. Having in early life manifested strong religious tendencies, he chose the ministry almost as a matter of course, and in 1872 was ordained as a minister of the gospel. The ensuing two years, Mr. Daniel had charge of the Leo circuit, in Allen County, after which he served for one year at Coesse, Whitley County, in both pastorates meeting with eminent success in his work. Remaining in that county, he then spent three years in Columbia City, from there going to Auburn, De Kalb County, and one year later to Peru, Miami County, where he served ably and satisfactorily as pastor for two years. From there Mr. Daniel went to Logansport for a term of three years, and from there to Union City for another three years of good work. He was then appointed pastor of Grace Church at Kokomo, Indiana, but on account of ill health was forced to give up preaching for awhile in Indiana. He subsequently accepted a position as pastor of Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

One year later, his health being much improved, Mr. Daniel accepted the pastorate of the First Methodist Episcopal Church at Richmond, Wayne County, where he remained five years, his long term of service bearing evidence of his pastoral ability and fidelity. In 1898 Mr. Daniel accepted the pastorate of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur, and at the end of two years was made district superintendent of the Fort Wayne district, having in that capacity the charge of thirty-six churches. As superintendent, he performed all of the duties devolving upon him ably and acceptably, but at the end of four years he was forced, on account of failing health, to give up the position. Being then superannuated, he settled in Decatur, where his death occurred a few years later, as previously noted.

Mr. Daniel married, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, soon after his graduation from the university, Miss Emma L. Birch, who was born in Wells County, Indiana, in 1852, a daughter of Rev. William S. Birch, D. D. Her grandfather, Benjamin Birch, came from Ohio to Indiana in pioneer days, settling in the northern part of the state, where he became prominent in local affairs. He was a contractor, and during the building of the Erie Canal had supervision of a part of the work. Rev. W. S. Birch

was born in eastern Ohio, in 1824, and came with his parents to Indiana, where he was educated for the ministry. In 1848 he began his ministerial labors as a circuit rider, having eight counties in his large circuit, and although Fort Wayne was the circuit center he lived in Wells County. He spent nearly half a century in Northern Indiana, and for twenty-two years served as district superintendent. For a number of terms he was a trustee of De Pauw University, which conferred upon him the well-merited degree of Doctor of Divinity. He spent his last days in Kokomo, Indiana, his death occurring March 29, 1895, during his service as district superintendent. The maiden name of the wife of Rev. Mr. Birch was Cynthia Stevens. She was born in Ohio in 1826, and died, July 12, 1893, in Kokomo, Indiana.

Mrs. Daniel, who graduated from the classical department of the old Fort Wayne College with the class of 1872, is a woman of culture and ability, whom it is a pleasure to meet, either as a friend or co-worker. The daughter of a minister, and a minister's wife, having spent fifty-two years of her life in the parsonage of a pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Conference of Northern Indiana, and each and every year since a girl has she spent in active work. She has been a teacher of vocal and instrumental music; she was made the secretary, in 1869, of the first foreign missionary society organized by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Indiana; she has been one of the foremost in supporting all local boards of charities and home missions, and in the work of the church conferences. Assisted in organizing the Northern Indiana Woman's Home Missions, which she served for twelve years as president, and of which she has been vice president for the past ten years. After the declaration of war by President Wilson, Mrs. Daniel was made one of the leaders of the Local Defense of Adams County, and has been one of the moving spirits in the good work being done by the organization.

In 1912 Mrs. Daniel purchased her present attractive home on North Second Street. It is a large, fourteen-room house, occupying a full half block, built in colonial style, and modernized into a most conveniently arranged dwelling, with a fine landscape lawn, on which are beautiful shade trees and shrubbery, and a well planned tennis court for pleasure seekers.

Mrs. Daniel has two children, Harry R. and Grayce B. Harry R. Daniel, a graduate of Hamline University, and of the Emerson School of Oratory, in Boston, Massachusetts, has been national secretary of the American Society of Thrift, which has been, and is being, adopted by many of the colleges and universities of the country. He possesses high mental attainments, and is well known in literary circles as a man of talent and ability.

Grayce B. Daniel was educated at the Ohio Wesleyan University, in Delaware, Ohio, and is a woman of many accomplishments. She married Chalmers C. Shafer, a prominent harness manufacturer of Decatur, and they have three children: Gretchen, Frederick, and Daniel.

John Bell. Two occupations, those of farming and merchandising, are occupying the energies and abilities of John Bell, one of the well known residents of the Poneto community of Wells County, and in both vocations he has met with success. When properly conducted in a farming community, the general store is not only a necessary and much appreciated commercial adjunct but also the medium through which the proprietor can add to his income through a knowledge of values and produce and his close connection with the tillers of the soil. Mr. Bell is one of the self-made men of his community, and the not inconsiderable

success which has rewarded him has been fairly and honorably won without outside assistance.

Mr. Bell was born on a farm in Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, March 12, 1854, and is a son of James and Evaline (Bentley) Bell, the former a native of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. The family has been represented in Wells County since November, 1842, and for the greater part its members have been agriculturists, although business and the professions have also had its members in their ranks. James Bell was an agriculturist and a man of some note in his community, serving several times as trustee of Chester Township and as commissioner of Wells County. A stanch democrat, he took an active interest in politics and was considered one of the strong men of his party in his locality. He belonged to the Christian Church, in the faith of which he died, as did also Mrs. Bell, who passed away in 1869. Of their ten children, three are living: John; Lydia, the widow of John Wood; and Mrs. Mary J. Campbell, also a widow.

John Bell was reared on the home farm, and given his education in the public schools, and when sixteen years of age began to work on his own account. Since that age, when he and his brother took charge of the home place, he has followed agricultural work, and at the present time is the owner of a fertile little tract of forty acres, where he carries on general farming in its various departments. He has his farm well improved with modern buildings and equipment of the model and substantial kind, and the successful results that have attended his efforts would seem to indicate that he is well versed in the methods of agricultural work. For several years past Mr. Bell has also conducted a general store at the little community known as Bellville, in the Poneto locality, and carries a full line of goods to supply the needs of the agricultural community in which he is centered. He enjoys a good trade and also has the reputation of being a straightforward business man of integrity. Politically, Mr. Bell is a Democrat and has been somewhat active in public affairs, having served as assessor of his township for six years, and as deputy for four years, and justice of the peace for six years. He is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, at Keystone; and is prominent in Odd Fellowship, belonging to Mount Zion Lodge No. 648, of which he is past grand, and the encampment and canton at Bluffton.

Mr. Bell was married in 1875 to Miss Melissa West, who was born in Chester Township, Wells County, daughter of Hiram and Mary (Walker) West. To this union there were born three children, of whom one survives: Sherman, born May 12, 1881, a graduate of the public schools and his father's assistant on the home farm, married Nora Shadle, and they have one daughter, Opal, born in 1903, a graduate of the common schools. Sherman Bell is one of the well known young farmers of Chester Township, who has a wide circle of friends. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, Uniform Rank, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Bluffton.

JOHN WAGONER, who for a number of years has lived retired with a comfortable property both in farm and city real estate, is one of the oldest native sons of Adams County, and is member of a family that invaded this country in the early '40s and had to clear away the timber and the brush before they could establish their humble log cabin home.

His maternal ancestors for generations unnumbered were French people, lived and died in that country, and his grandfather also spent his life in France. John Wagoner is a son of the late Nicholas Wagoner. Nicholas was born in France July 28, 1830, a son of John N.

Wagoner, who died when his son was a small child. A little later the widowed mother brought her children, three sons and a daughter by a previous marriage, and Nicholas, to America, sailing from a French port and after weeks on the ocean landing in New York City. From there they went to Lancaster, Ohio, where she bought forty acres of land, and in 1843 the family came to Adams County, Indiana, and located in Washington Township. Here they acquired eighty acres in the midst of the woods, built a log house, had an open fireplace for heating and cooking, and a log barn for the shelter of their stock. Near the house they dug a well, and it was operated with a "sweep" and an old oaken bucket. The grandmother with the aid of her sons cleared up this land and there she spent her last years, passing away at the age of eighty-two. She was an active member of the Catholic Church. Her four children grew up and married and all of them spent lives of labor and achievement and left large families.

Nicholas Wagoner was about thirteen years old when he came to Adams County, and had but limited educational advantages, attending school back in Ohio for the most part. He had the practice and the experience that made him a capable farmer when he undertook to support a family of his own, and at a comparatively early age, January 20, 1848, he married Miss Mary Everhart. She was born in Harrison County, Ohio, November 20, 1831, a daughter of John Everhart, who was of German stock. When Mary Everhart was a small child the family came to Adams County and located on a tract of new land in Monroe Township. John Everhart steadily cleared away some of the forest and lived there until his death when past fifty. He married a Miss Hendricks, who survived him, and died when quite an old woman. They were members of the Protestant religion, and in practically all the generations the Wagoners and Everharts have supplied democratic voters.

In the spring following his marriage Nicholas Wagoner settled on a farm in section 9 of Monroe Township. This eighty acres was completely wild and unimproved and was given to Mrs. Wagoner by her father. After the manner of pioneers they began their task of making a home and lived in the greatest simplicity for a number of years. The good housewife while at work was often interrupted by the coming of wild animals into her dooryard. The first log cabin was 18 by 22 feet with puncheon floor and clapboard roof. That was followed by a double hewed log house, and in June, 1865, they completed a substantial frame residence, where they spent their later years in comfort. Nicholas Wagoner was a very successful farmer and business man, and his industry brought him eventually about 500 acres. As his children left home at marriage, he gave each of them forty acres or $500 in cash, and eventually he had decreased his estate until it contained 160 acres. For many years he kept his original log barn as a landmark on the farm, but in 1883 had erected a barn which at the time was regarded as the finest in the entire township. His good wife died about 1897. She was a very active worker of the United Brethren Church. Nicholas Wagoner died July 5, 1912, at the advanced age of eighty-two. He had been a regular party worker and voter as a democrat for many years, but exercised his influence in behalf of his friends rather than himself as a candidate for office. He and his wife became the parents of six sons and four daughters, two of whom died in infancy and one at the age of sixteen. The others all grew up and married and had families and three sons and three daughters are still living. The names of those who reached maturity were John, Samuel S., Mary J., Ira, Eli, Arminda B., and Ettie.

It was in the old log cabin home of his father in Monroe Township

that John Wagoner was born March 15, 1849. He grew up on the home farm, was educated in the common schools, and was with his parents until nineteen years of age. On August 20, 1868, he married Miss Sarah J. Hughes, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, June 26, 1848, a daughter of Lorenzo and Electa (Wentworth) Hughes. The Hughes family came to Adams County in 1861 and her parents spent the rest of their days in Monroe Township. Sarah Hughes was one of a family of ten children. Her father was a very useful man in the community in addition to clearing up the land and making a home for his family, and was a lay preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. John Wagoner was for many years active in the United Brethren Church, and afterwards joined the Evangelical Church at Decatur. She died March 3, 1917.

After his marriage Mr. Wagoner located on a farm in section 4 of Monroe Township, comprising the tract of forty acres given him by his father. The land was covered with heavy timber, and after getting much of it in cultivation he began increasing his holdings until he had a well developed farm of 120 acres. He followed general farming and stock raising, and was looked upon as one of the men of influence in that community as long as he lived there. For eight years he was township supervisor.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner had six children named William W., Albert C., Lewis Edward, Benjamin F., David W. and Hosea C., the last dying at the age of three years. William W. died in the prime of life and left no children. He was superintendent of the Indiana and Grand Rapids Railroad. Albert C. is agent for the Nickel Plate Railway at McComb, Ohio, and by his marriage to Miss McDaniel of Spencerville, Ohio, has a son Guy. Lewis E. is an operator for the Nickel Plate Railway at Continental, Ohio, and has two sons and two daughters, Robert, Don, Mildred and Lotos. The son Benjamin F. resides at Denver, Colorado, and is married but has no children. David W. is a plumber at Decatur, married an Ohio girl and has one child, Billie. Mr. Wagoner and his sons are all democrats. While he has not been active in farming for a number of years, he still owns forty acres of farm land in the county, and has considerable real estate investments in Decatur.

John E. Shadle. Among the families that have lived in Wells County for seventy years or more one of the best known in Chester Township is that which bears the name Shadle, and whose members have taken a more or less prominent part in the settlement, development and well being of this community. The family had already done a large share of pioneer work before John E. Shadle was born. Mr. Shadle's individual activities have been carried on in the same locality where his parents settled in pioneer times, and he is now proprietor of a productive and well managed farm in Chester Township on Rural Route No. 1 out of Keystone.

Only a quarter of a mile north of his present home Mr. Shadle was born September 10, 1865. He is a son of the venerable Philip and Margaret (Donnelly) Shadle. Philip Shadle is a remarkable instance of longevity, and despite his hardships and experiences as a pioneer in Wells County is still living at the venerable age of ninety-two. He was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1825, son of Philip and Mary (McGlade) Shadle. His father was a native of Center County, Pennsylvania, while Mary McGlade was two years old when her parents came from Ireland. The grandparents married in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and for twenty-five years made their home in Lebanon County. In 1836 they removed to Wayne County, Ohio, a

year later to Holmes County, and in the fall of 1847 traded the Ohio farm for 110 acres of wild land in Wells County, Indiana. Philip Shadle, Sr., was a carpenter by trade and hewed out the logs for his home in Wells County and made the first substantial house of the kind in Chester Township. His wife died in Wells County in January, 1855, and he passed away in 1874.

The venerable Philip Shadle was reared and educated in Ohio, and in Wayne County that state married August 7, 1845, Miss Margaret Donnelly, a native of Pennsylvania and daughter of John and Fannie (Singer) Donnelly, also natives of Pennsylvania. The Donnelly family moved from Pennsylvania to Wayne County, Ohio, about 1835 and in 1850 went to Holmes County, Ohio. Philip Shadle brought his family to Wells County the year after his father's settlement, and located on a tract of sixty-five acres of the old homestead. He looked after the farm while his father followed his trade as a carpenter, and being a man of great strength and industry he cleared up with the assistance of his children fully 150 acres of the virgin land of Chester Township. He became owner of a fine farm and he kept in close touch with its operations until advanced years. His good wife was born January 14, 1829, and their companionship was one of remarkable length, being terminated after more than seventy years by her death on January 21, 1917. For years they were faithful members and active workers in the United Presbyterian Church. Philip Shadle was a man of affairs in his township and county, was township trustee six years, and as a republican at one time was chairman of the Republican Committee in his home township. He and his wife had a large family of fifteen children, and six sons and two daughters are still living: William A., James N., Lucetta, wife of John Godfrey; Reason, Samuel, John, Eli and Ada, wife of Frank Stair.

Mr. John E. Shadle grew up on the old homestead a quarter of a mile from his present home, attended the common schools, and was a factor in clearing the land and cultivating the fields on his father's place until he was twenty-five years of age. He then married Miss Rilla A. Perry, daughter of Walter Perry. Mrs. Shadle is also a native of Chester Township. After their marriage they began housekeeping on the farm of eighty-eight acres, where they still live, and from that point Mr. Shadle has developed his notably successful industry as a general farmer and stock man. He has been a breeder and raiser of some of the best stock in the township, and handles Hampshire sheep, Duroc hogs, Shorthorn cattle, and has always been up to date and progressive in every line of activity. Politically he votes as a republican. Mr. and Mrs. Shadle have one son, Pasco E., born August 29, 1892. This son married Nellie Graves, and is now the father of two children, Wayne and Lena, grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Shadle.

William H. Ditzler has been prominently identified with the lumber industry for a number of years and is now active in the firm of the Ditzler Hardwood Company at Bluffton. He grew up in the atmosphere of lumber milling, his father having been at one time operator of the largest saw mill in Wells County. William H. Ditzler was born in Lancaster Township of Wells County March 5, 1880, a son of George C. and Laura E. (Teeple) Ditzler.

George C. Ditzler, who now lives with his wife at Markle, Indiana, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, a son of George and Catherine (Sauerbaugh) Ditzler, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1864 the Ditzler family came to Wells County, settling in Rock Creek Township on the Wabash River. George C. Ditzler grew up on that farm and when a

young man bought a saw mill at Murray. He sold that in 1882 and took a large contract to furnish material for the building of the old Chicago & Atlantic, now the Erie Railroad, then in progress of construction through Wells County. To supply this material George C. Ditzler built a mill at Uniondale, and for several years it was the chief sawmill of Wells County, with an annual capacity of over 2,000,000 feet of lumber.

George C. Ditzler was the pioneer of Uniondale, his mill being the principal industry of the village, and his home was the first one completed there. All the first houses were built from lumber cut in his mill. His second son, Charles F., was the first child born at Uniondale, on December 5, 1882. There was one other son, Ray L., who is now in the produce business at Markle, Indiana, and also interested in branch houses at Roanoke and Huntington. Ray Ditzler married Fern Rairick. A daughter of George C. Ditzler, Eva M., is the wife of Floyd E. Thomas, a miller at Markle, Indiana. Charles F. Ditzler, above referred to, is a farmer in Huntington County, Indiana, and married Bessie Nicholson.

George C. Ditzler married Laura Teeple on February 6, 1879. She was born in Butler County, Iowa, in 1857, and her father, Samuel Teeple, entered the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil war and died while still in service.

William H. Ditzler spent his first few years at Murray and Uniondale, but from the age of six was reared on the old farm in Rock Creek Township. He attended the Sugar Grove school house, and afterwards had one term of instruction in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. For a year and a half he was a student in Wittenberg College at Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Ditzler had three terms of experience as a teacher in Wells and Allen counties.

On April 28, 1901, he married Miss Ivy Lesh, daughter of George W. and Christina (Logan) Lesh. Her father was a native of Wells County and her mother was born on the old Logan homestead in Rock Creek Township. Mrs. Ditzler also attended the Sugar Grove school in Rock Creek Township.

After his marriage Mr. Ditzler moved to his father's farm in Rock Creek Township, and was there two and a half years, and in July, 1903, came to Bluffton and for nine months was employed in the Cline Chair & Sawmill Company. He then went to southern Indiana and at Albany was in the sawmill business three years, and for the next five years conducted a sawmill and lumberyard at Akron, Indiana. Selling his interests there, he bought a farm in Huntington County a half mile north of Markle, where his brother Charles now lives, but a year later returned to Bluffton and bought the sawmill which he still owns and operates. He is an extensive manufacturer of hardwood lumber and has one of the thriving industries of the kind in Wells County.

Mr. and Mrs. Ditzler have four children: Jennie M., born January 27, 1904; George W., born October 21, 1907; Laura C., born August 4, 1911; and Helen M., born March 12, 1913. The daughter, Jennie, is now in the first year of the local high school. Mr. Ditzler and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bluffton and he is one of the official board. Politically he is a democrat. Among other business interests he has stock in the Warren Hardwood Company. In 1916 Mr. Ditzler bought what is known as the Studabaker Grove adjacent to the corporation limits of Bluffton on the northwest, and here he has erected a modern residence, making his home at that place.

Frank Hesher. Among the good farms of Wells County one that deserves notice on account of its improvements and superior manage-

ment and is also representative of the industry and effective work of a very capable citizen is that of Frank Hesher on Rural Route No. 2 out of Bluffton in Harrison Township.

Mr. Hesher was born on a farm in Harrison Township April 25, 1882, and is a son of Adam and Elizabeth (Ratliff) Hesher. His parents are still living in Harrison Township, and his father was at one time superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary.

Frank Hesher grew up on a farm in Harrison and Lancaster Townships and was educated in the common schools. At the age of nineteen he struck out for himself, working at monthly wages at the infirmary and with other farmers for about nine years.

On January 12, 1904, he married Miss Ida Biberstein. She was born in Harrison Township, daughter of Emanuel Biberstein, and acquired her education in the common schools.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hesher hired out their services to a farmer at monthly wages. The next year they improved their condition somewhat by renting a farm in the township, and after five years of industry and economy were able to acquire their present home of ninety-six acres six miles southeast of Bluffton near the old county infirmary. Thus all their prosperity is due to their united labors and good management, and today Mr. Hesher is regarded as one of the most successful men in the county in the handling of livestock. He is a breeder of the spotted Poland hogs, of Holstein cattle and Percheron horses. At a number of fairs and exhibitions his poultry has taken first premiums. Instead of shipping his stock to market Mr. Hesher every year holds a sale when his livestock is eagerly picked up by other stock men.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesher have a family of four children named Edna, Glen, Mary and Nora. In politics he is a democrat, but has never held office and has been content to do his part as a citizen by supporting such movements as commend themselves to his confidence and judgment.

Franklin P. McGeath. Away back in 1841 the McGeath family came to Indiana and ever since this family has been esteemed here for it has been identified largely with the upbuilding, the improvement and the sound citizenship of Wells County. The family is of Scotch-Irish extraction but came to Indiana from Virginia. One of the well known and worthy representatives of the family is Franklin P. McGeath, who is a general farmer and stockraiser in Chester Township.

Franklin P. McGeath was born in Chester Township, Wells County, August 20, 1851. His parents were James H. and Elizabeth (Foreman) McGeath, natives of Virginia, who came to Indiana in 1841 when young people, and were married in Henry County, Indiana. They settled 3½ miles west and a half mile south of the farm on which Franklin P. McGeath now lives. Their first home was a rude log structure, roofed over with tree branches, a regular pioneer abode, but the time came when Mr. McGeath was able to build a large and comfortable house, and there he and wife spent their last years. They were industrious, thrifty people and more than that, they were kind and neighborly and in all the country round were held in high regard. They were among the earnest and active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics James H. McGeath was a democrat and probably served in local offices for he was a man of good judgment as well as sterling character. Of his fourteen children those surviving are: Thomas J., who is a farmer in Chester Township; Elizabeth, who is the wife of William Bentley, of Oklahoma; and Franklin P.

Franklin P. McGeath remained at home and helped his father until he was eighteen years old and as opportunity offered, attended the district schools. In his youth when boys desired money of their own to spend, their hard-working fathers were very apt to recommend them to earn it. At that time there were fewer chances for boys to work outside the home, perhaps, than at present, but Franklin knew that money was paid for some of the wild growths in field and forest and many an hour he spent searching the fields for ginseng and the forest for ash and prickley ash bark. These commodities he sold to drug stores in Montpelier. With such creditable ideas of thrift, when Mr. McGeath started out for himself at the age of eighteen, he soon found self-supporting work and for the next six years continued to work for farmers and others by the month. When he had a free capital of $200 he married and rented land for a short time but soon bought forty acres and later bought another forty, and then sold his eighty acres to advantage and bought just across the road from his other land. He retains 120 acres for himself but has been generous with his children and in late years has assisted them in getting homes of their own. Mr. McGeath has been a very successful farmer and has given much attention to growing high grade stock. In addition to his agricultural interests, he is a stockholder in the Poneto Elevator Company and in the Farmers Bank.

Mr. McGeath was married to Miss Matilda J. Starr, a daughter of Benjamin and Matilda (Popejoy) Starr. The father of Mrs. McGeath was born in Virginia and the mother in Ohio. They were married in Wells County, Indiana, and settled on the farm now occupied by E. N. Cassell. Mr. and Mrs. McGeath have four children, namely: Levi E., in Oklahoma, who married Lillie Haven; Iva A., who married Bertha Harris, also lives in Oklahoma; Retta E., who is the wife of Guy Harris; and Rosetta, who is the wife of Robert Groves of Oklahoma. There are nine grandchildren in the family. In politics Mr. McGeath has always been identified with the republican party. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sephus Miller of Harrison Township, Wells County, represents the third generation of the Miller family in Wells County, where it was established about eighty years ago. The interests and the activities of the family have run along the same line. Stock farming has been their chief forte. As judges of livestock and experts in handling all branches of animal husbandry the Millers have made a record hardly surpassed by that of any other one family. The Millers have bred and raised, dealt in and shipped horses, mules, cattle and hogs, and it is to the latter branch that Sephus Miller gives his chief attention and is widely known all over Northeastern Indiana on account of his herd of pure blooded big type Poland China hogs.

The founder of the family in this county was Daniel Miller, a native of Ohio, while his father before him was a native of Germany. When Daniel Miller was a small boy his parents removed to Darke County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married. His first wife died soon afterwards childless. He then married Miss Eleanor Graves. From Darke County he came to Adams County, Indiana, and about 1838 moved to Wells County, where he entered 160 acres of Government land. On this he built a home typical of other homes of that time, and proceeded with the industry and enterprise that were vital parts of his character to establish himself permanently not only as a farmer but as a factor in the business life of the community. His means and his affairs grew until at one time he owned about eight hundred acres of land. He was one of the largest farmers and one of the largest stock raisers. His

affairs were greatly prospered during the war times which put a premium upon the products of the farm as the people of this generation can thoroughly appreciate. Daniel Miller was in the high tide of his activity when in 1864, while attempting to arrest a horse thief, he was shot and died from the wound about six hours later. He and his wife had seven children.

The oldest of these children was the late John A. Miller, who was born in Darke County, Ohio, August 15, 1836, and was an infant when brought to Wells County. He had the advantages of the district schools during the winter months and as a boy he showed a disposition to learn and master the practical business of farming and stock raising. At the age of twenty-two he began dealing in stock on his own account, and with growing experience his judgment became so well defined that many regarded him as almost infallible in his estimate of any matter connected with livestock, whether from the producing standpoint or in transactions of trade. He became well known in different stock markets of the country, and was always a man of the strictest honor and integrity. While he inherited some property as well as other valuable qualities from his father, he began life little beyond the stage of a poor man, and it was his own efforts that made him one of the prosperous citizens of Wells County. He acquired a large farm of 400 acres or more, and while he was always noted as a good money maker, he was also known for his liberality and generosity with his means and with his influence toward any enterprise that demanded his co-operation. His home was one of the most hospitable places in the entire county. He was broad and liberal in his principles and policies, supported men and measures that appealed to him in local politics, but in national affairs was a republican. He was affiliated with Lodge No. 114 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Bluffton.

In 1867 John A. Miller married Miss Sarah Martin, daughter of Josephus Martin. She was born in Adams County and was educated there. They reared six children, Frank, Robert, John, Sephus, Rufus and Harry.

Sephus Miller was born on his father's farm in Harrison Township May 12, 1876. He grew up at home, attended the district schools, and his enterprise and self reliance were on a par with those of his father and grandfather. At the age of sixteen he started out to make his own living. He worked in different lines and finally acquired a modest capital of his own, sufficient to justify him in marrying and starting a home.

On September 26, 1899, he married Miss Glenna Bears of Adams County, Indiana. She was born in that county March 29, 1882, and was educated in the common schools. After his marriage Mr. Miller bought the farm where he now lives. He was unable to pay for it at once, but his industry together with the capable co-operation of his wife, has not only enabled him to release the farm from debt, but put many extensive improvements upon it. He has done much ditching and draining, has cleared away some of the brush and timber, and altogether has one of the fine farms of Harrison Township. About 1905 Mr. Miller started to specialize in the breeding of high grade hogs. For a number of years he has conducted private sales where his animals command the highest prices, and he now has about fifty of the big type Poland China hogs in his herd. The herd is headed by Big Leo No. 98825 and Orange Kid No. 103701.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have one daughter, Mary M., born January 13, 1901. She has finished the work of the common schools and is now in the third year of the Bluffton High School. The family are members of

the Six Mile Christian Church, and Mr. Miller is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias at Bluffton and in politics is a republican.

JOHN A. MORRIS has spent his active business life largely in Bluffton and to the present generation of citizens at least he needs no introduction, since his business position is one of unassailable advantage and integrity and he is widely known all over this section of Indiana. Mr. Morris is president of the John A. Morris Company and is vice president of the Morris Company, operating a chain of eighteen five and ten cent stores, in many Indiana towns.

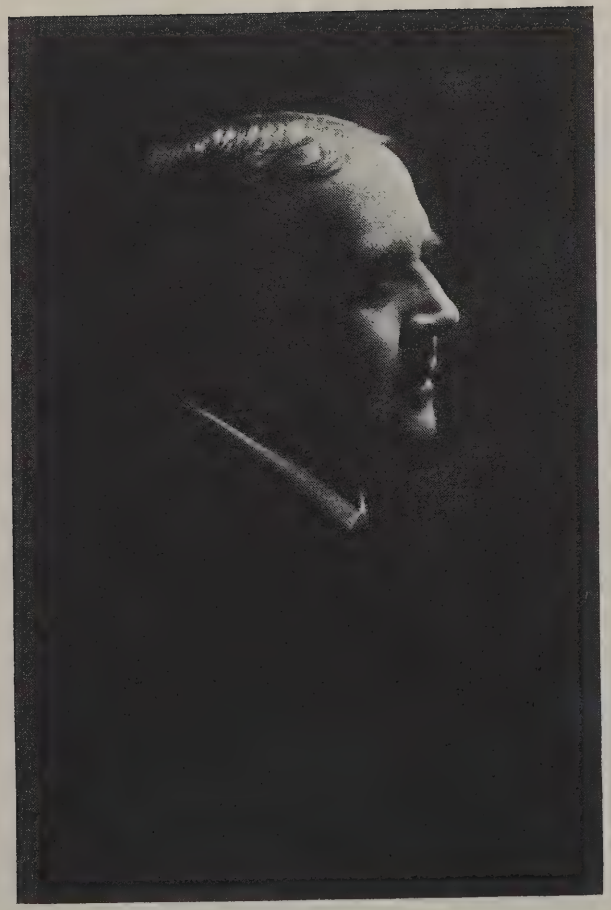
Mr. Morris was born in Rush County, Indiana, March 25, 1856, a son of Daniel and Mary (Lockridge) Morris. His mother was a native of Kentucky, coming to Rush County, Indiana, at the age of twelve years. His father was born near Indianapolis, Indiana, grew up there, went to Rush County where he married, and then settled on a farm 3½ miles north of Rushville at a place called Six Points. He lived there the life of a farmer on land which he entered from the Government, and his death occurred in 1858 when his son John was two years of age. He was an active member of the Baptist Church. His widow survived him to the age of seventy-eight and passed away at Lebanon, Indiana. She married a second husband and John A. Morris went with her to live in Boone County, Indiana, and a few years later went to Lebanon.

After the family went to Lebanon John A. Morris began making his own way in the world, and was employed as a clerk in local stores for some years. He distinguished himself by his commercial knowledge and ability even at an early age, and gradually acquired the capital and influence which enabled him to start a commercial career of his own.

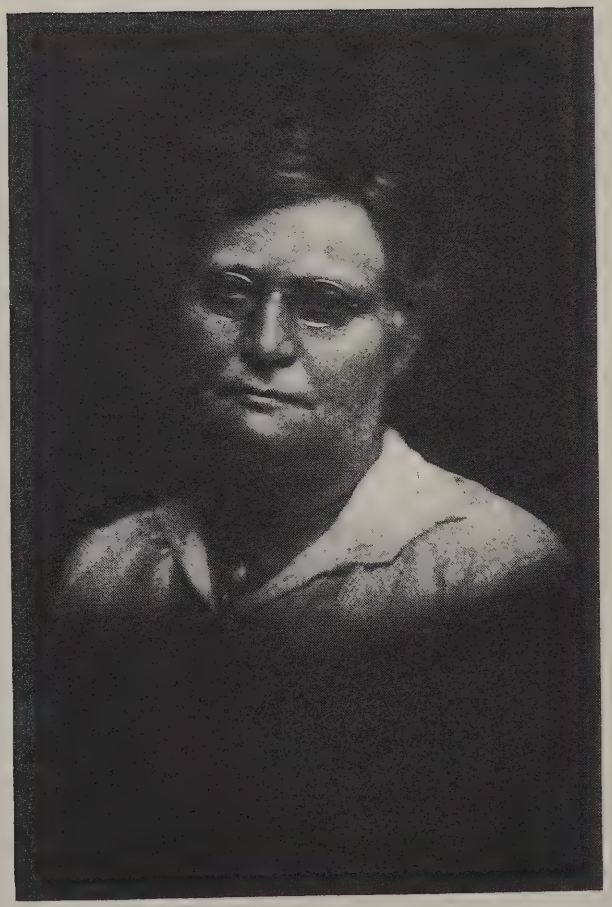
On November 10, 1874, while at Lebanon he married Mary E. Powell. She was born on a farm five miles east of Lebanon, and grew up practiced in the duties of home and educated in the local schools. Mr. and Mrs. Morris had four children, George S. Morris, whose career as an active Bluffton business man is told on other pages; Flo, wife of Harry McFarren of Bluffton; Elizabeth, wife of C. B. Larrimer of Bluffton; and William D. of Greensburg, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris are active members of the Baptist Church at Bluffton and he is chairman of its finance committee and one of the most liberal supporters of the church and its various causes. He is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is also a member of the Royal Arch Chapter, the Council of the Knights Templar Commandery at Bluffton, and is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. He also belongs to Bluffton Lodge No. 796 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Morris has always taken an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and has done much to promote worthy movements and institutions in the city where his business career has been spent. Besides his store he is a stockholder in the Studabaker Bank, in the W. B. Brown Company and the H. C. Bays Company. Politically Mr. Morris is a pronounced democrat, and has long been an active and influential figure in the party though not an office seeker. He was a member of the city council eight years, and he made that office an opportunity for doing much well considered and substantial improvement in the municipal affairs. Mr. Morris is a big hearted liberal citizen and one of the most useful members of the community. He is now practically retired from active business and he and his wife spend much of their time in their cottage at Lake George. They have a beautiful home at 427 West Wiley Avenue in Bluffton.



JOHN A. MORRIS



MARY E. MORRIS

THOMAS C. GULDIN, now serving his second term as surveyor of Wells County, has worked hard for every honor and success that has come to him. As a boy he was contributing to the support of the family by the time he was fifteen, and with himself to look after he managed to acquire a liberal education through his own earnings and for a long period of years was one of the most successful teachers in this part of Indiana.

Mr. Guldin was born on a farm in old Berks County, Pennsylvania, March 23, 1872. His parents, Jeremiah and Amelia (Lamm) Guldin, spent all their lives in that section of Pennsylvania, so rich in history. Until he was fifteen Thomas C. Guldin grew up on the home farm in Berks County and had his early advantages in the common schools. In 1887 he came to Wells County, Indiana, where he found employment with his uncle at monthly wages on a farm in Lancaster Township. He worked on the farm steadily throughout the summer months and attended the local district school during the winter. He also put in three years of work in Rock Creek Township on a farm. During a couple of years Mr. Guldin sent part of his wages back home to his parents. He made the best possible use of his opportunities to secure an education, and by attending the county normal secured his first license to teach. During the winter of 1891-92 he taught a district school in Wells County and continued the vocation of an educator for nineteen years. His teaching was done in the intervals of other work and of study in advanced courses at different schools. He attended Valparaiso University for a time and has two years of credits with the State Normal School of Indiana. In 1900-02 Mr. Guldin was principal of the Newville School and was again with that school from 1908 to 1910. In 1903-04 Mr. Guldin was deputy county surveyor of Wells County.

In 1914 he was nominated for the office of county surveyor, beginning his official term January 1, 1915. In 1916 he was re-elected. Mr. Guldin is a practical civil engineer, and has handled the duties of his office with complete satisfaction to all concerned.

In August, 1900, he married Miss Della D. Ormsby, who was born in Union Township of Wells County, daughter of the late Oliver Ormsby. Mr. and Mrs. Guldin have one son, Wendell A., born September 6, 1909, and they also have an adopted daughter, Martha J., born May 24, 1917. The family are members of the Reformed Church, Mr. Guldin being one of the elders and very active in church matters. He has been superintendent of the Sunday school since 1911. In politics he is a democrat. Mr. Guldin is past chancellor of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and a member of the Grand Lodge, and is also affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

JAMES M. MANN has been one of the leading factors in the business and civic affairs of Poneto in Wells County for a number of years. He has spent practically all his life in Wells County, and his family are identified with the county by many ties and associations extending back into pioneer days.

His father was the late Henry A. Mann, who was born in Monroe County, West Virginia, July 8, 1828. The great-grandfather Jacob Mann was a native of Germany and founded a family in Virginia in colonial times. The grandfather Michael Mann was born in Virginia August 12, 1795. The mother of Henry A. Mann was Cynthia Walker, who was born in Virginia January 5, 1797. Michael and Cynthia were married March 14, 1816, and then located on a farm in Virginia, Michael being both a farmer and a blacksmith. In 1833 they came to

Henry County, Indiana, and entered land from the government. On this old homestead Cynthia Mann died September 30, 1871. Michael married a second wife and his death occurred at Rensselaer, Indiana, December 21, 1889. His children were: Clayton W., born June 29, 1819; Jacob C., born July 20, 1821; Marinda, born July 5, 1823; Leroy, born March 7, 1826; Henry A., born July 8, 1828; Christopher D., born December 11, 1830, and Lucinda C., born October 6, 1833.

Henry A. Mann grew up on his father's farm in Indiana, attended the district schools and also Franklin College, and at the age of twenty-one started out to make his own way in the world. On January 3, 1856, he married Martha Allen, daughter of William and Sarah (Prather) Allen. William Allen was born in North Carolina September 7, 1798, and his wife was born October 8, 1806. William Allen was a son of Reuben Allen. William and wife were married in Wayne County, Indiana, October 19, 1826, and some years later they moved to Madison County, Indiana, and made that their home the rest of their days. William Allen and wife had eight children: James, born July 30, 1827, and died February 15, 1893; Thomas C., born September 10, 1829, died November 11, 1854; Martha, born October 16, 1831; W. A., born in March, 1834, became a physician and surgeon; Jonathan P., born August 12, 1837, died January 5, 1862, while a soldier in the Union army; Benjamin F., born February 6, 1840, became a dentist; Mary E., born November 16, 1842, died September 19, 1845; and Rachel, born December 15, 1846.

Henry A. Mann after his marriage located on a farm in Henry County, renting land for three years, and in 1860 came to Nottingham Township in Wells County and bought the hundred acres which he improved from a virtual wilderness into a splendid farm. That was his home seventeen years and altogether he owned 180 acres and was a stockholder in the Poneto Elevator. Henry A. Mann and wife had two children: Emma, born August 16, 1857, and died September 2, 1859, and James M. Henry A. Mann enlisted October 16, 1864, in Company K of the Fifty-third Indiana Infantry and saw some active service towards the close of the rebellion. He was a republican in politics.

James M. Mann was born in Madison County, Indiana, near Pendleton, April 15, 1860, and was six weeks of age when his parents moved to Wells County, arriving May 29, 1860. They located in Nottingham Township where he grew to manhood and where he acquired his early education in the common schools.

On December 25, Christmas Day, 1879, Mr. Mann married Miss Sarah Stahl. She was born in Harrison Township, of Wells County, daughter of William and Anna (DeWitt) Stahl. William Stahl came to Wells County in 1838 and entered government land in Harrison Township. His father acquired altogether 800 acres of which Wm. Stahl got 160 acres, at this time completely covered with heavy timber, and he saw most of that improved and in cultivation. His own home was on one of the quarter sections, and was one of the best improved in the township. William Stahl and the father of James M. Mann both died on the same day, their funerals were preached the same day and they were buried in the same cemetery. Mrs. Mann was one of eight children, five of whom are still living: Sarah, Mrs. Mann; Ellen, wife of Jonathan G. Miller; Josephine, wife of Lewis George; Susan, widow of Daniel Rush, and Hester A., wife of Joseph C. Huffman.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann have one child, Lillie, who graduated from the common schools and is now the wife of Frank Ifer. They now live on a farm in Chester Township and are the parents of two sons, Dowell, aged seven, and Reginald, aged six. Mr. and Mrs. Mann are active

members of the Baptist Church and he is one of its trustees and superintendent of its Sunday School. Politically he is active as a democrat. In April, 1904, Mr. Mann removed to Poneto and was a stockholder and manager of the Poneto Elevator until 1911. He owns and still gives his supervision to a fine farm of 205 acres in that vicinity.

E. A. Shadle. One of the prosperous farmers and well known men of Wells County, whose valuable property is situated in Chester Township, belongs to an old and respected family of this section. He was born on a farm in Chester township, Wells County, October 11, 1867, and is a son of Philip and Margaret Donnelly Shadle.

Philip Shadle, who is one of Chester Township's venerable and most esteemed residents, was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1820, a son of Philip and Mary (McGlade) Shadle. The father was born in Pennsylvania but the mother was a native of Ireland and had been brought to America and to Pennsylvania when two years old and was reared in Dauphin County. The parents of Philip Shadle moved to Lebanon County and made their home there for thirty-five years, then moved to Wayne County and later to Holmes County, Ohio. From there in 1847 they came to Wells County, Indiana, where Mr. Shadle put up a primitive log cabin but soon after replaced it with a hewed log structure which was one of the first of its kind in this part of the county.

Philip Shadle reached manhood while the family home was in Ohio and was married in Wayne County to Margaret Donnelly, who was a daughter of John and Fannie (Swiger) Donnelly, who had moved from Pennsylvania to Wayne County in 1835 and to Holmes County in 1850. In the year following the removal of his father's family to Wells County, Philip Shadle and his family came and during the first year all lived together and then Philip, being a carpenter, built an addition to the hewed log house and the family was then more comfortably settled. His mother died in 1855 and his father in 1874. During his active years Mr. Shadle was a very industrious man and in addition to working as a carpenter cleared and improved more than 150 acres of land. He has always been a republican in politics and still takes much interest in matters relating to that organization and to public affairs in general, being a very remarkable man.

To Philip Shadle and his wife fifteen children were born and named as follows: Mary J., who married Winfield Venham; Zillah, who married J. M. Venham; William A.; Newton; James N.; Lucetta, who married John Godfrey; and Reason A., Ellen, Samuel, John, Eli A., Oscar M., Ada Chambers, Lissa and Philip. The mother of this family died in 1917, when aged eighty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Shadle were among the organizers of the United Presbyterian Church at Warren, Indiana, and always faithful members.

Eli A. Shadle remained at home until his marriage and obtained his education in the Chester Township schools. He has always been a farmer and a successful one and gives considerable attention to raising good stock. He owns eighty acres of excellent, well cared for land. He is one of the stockholders in the elevator at Poneto and is counted a man of fine business judgment.

Mr. Shadle was married September 9, 1895, to Miss Emma Alspach of this township. Politically he is a republican.

John Leslie Redding, M. D. Devoting his native talents and abilities to one of the most useful, and at the same time one of the most exacting, of all professions, John L. Redding, M. D., of Bluffton, holds a noteworthy position among the skillful and successful physicians and

surgeons of Wells County. A son of Rufus Redding, he was born October 23, 1876, on a farm in Salamonie Township, about ten miles west of Bluffton.

His paternal grandfather, John Redding, was born, reared and married in Wilkes County, North Carolina, of which his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Nicholson, was also a native. He was of patriotic stock, his ancestors having fought bravely in the Revolutionary army. In 1853 he came with his wife and children to Huntington County, Indiana, and having bought a tract of wild land, improved, with true pioneer courage, the farm in Rock Creek Township on which he spent his remaining years, both he and his wife living to be quite old.

Born in Wilkes County, North Carolina, July 20, 1849, Rufus Redding was a small child when brought by his parents to Rock Creek Township, Huntington County. He grew to manhood on the parental homestead, gleaning his elementary education during the winter terms of the district school, and later advancing his studies at Roanoke Academy and at a private normal school in Markle, Indiana. Securing a teacher's license when but eighteen years old, he taught school in Huntington County, in both Salamonie and Rock Creek townships, continuing even after his marriage as a teacher during the winter seasons, having charge of his father-in-law's farm during the summer, he having married when young. Two years after his marriage he bought ninety-two acres of land in Salamonie Township, going in debt for it to a considerable extent. Industrious and thrifty, he labored intelligently, and in due course of time paid off all of his indebtedness and bought other land, becoming owner of 194 acres, a part of it being in Salamonie Township and a part in Rock Creek Township. Having accumulated a competency, he is now living retired in Warren, Indiana. Both are members of the Warren Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a republican in politics, and served one term as township trustee of Salamonie Township.

Rufus Redding married, August 9, 1870, Louisa Foreman. She was born in Clinton County, Ohio, and as a girl was brought by her parents, Obadiah and Sarah (Hamilton) Foreman, to Huntington County, Indiana, where she completed her early education, having had Mr. Redding, her future husband, as a teacher. Five children were born of their union, as follows: Ellis Linden, who graduated from the commercial department of the Marion Normal College, is now living in Marion, Indiana; Cora L., wife of Harvey Brown; John Leslie, the subject of this sketch; Rufus Marion, and Olive E.

Having laid a substantial foundation for his future education in the district schools of Salamonie Township, John L. Redding attended the Marion Normal College two years, and the Valparaiso University a part of two seasons, and the Indiana University one year, taking the classical course. He then entered the medical department of the Indiana University, and after taking the full course of four years was graduated with the degree of M. D. Dr. Redding immediately located at Rockford, Wells County, where he continued as a physician and surgeon for thirteen years, meeting with signal success from the start. In 1917 he removed to Bluffton, where he has already gained prestige in his profession and is rapidly building up an extensive patronage.

Dr. Redding married, in August, 1903, Annie Roberts, a daughter of John and Mary J. Roberts. The Doctor and Mrs. Redding have two children, John R., a pupil in the Bluffton High School, and Robert L. The Doctor is identified with the agricultural affairs of Wells County to some extent, having a farm in Rock Creek Township. He is a member of the county and state medical societies, and of the American Medical association. In politics he is a steadfast republican. Fra-

ternally the Doctor belongs to Markle Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; to Salamonie Lodge No. 392, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and to Rockford Tribe, Improved Order of Red Men.

David Gerber. Special interest attaches to the career of this well known and highly esteemed citizen of Decatur, since he is a native of Adams County, and represents some of the sterling Swiss stock that settled here in pioneer times and has himself been prominently concerned with civic and business activities for many years. He is a former county clerk, but is most widely known because of his operations as a livestock man and in the handling of horses and also as operator of stone quarries.

Mr. Gerber's home is at 811 North Third Street in Decatur. He has a large stone quarry in the western part of Blue Creek Township and this industry alone employs ten men and furnishes a large part of the crushed stone and other material used in road construction and for other purposes in this section of Indiana. He operates a stone crusher and for the past five years his quarry has been one of the principal sources of crushed stone for county roads.

For a much longer period, thirty-five years, Mr. Gerber has been a dealer in horses. He has bought horses locally and is widely known as an importer and exporter. For five years he was associated with Mr. J. M. Frisinger in the business of exporting American horses to the German trade. While sending American horses abroad they shipped back to this country some of the fine Belgian and French thoroughbreds. Mr. Gerber has also built up a rather extensive business in breeding Belgian horses. At the present time he is owner of three of the best stallions of this stock in northeastern Indiana. The names of these pure bred horses are Piston Schen, Haptal and Moniau de Bove. These horses weigh about two thousand pounds apiece, and they exemplify in themselves and in their progeny some of the finest characteristics of the Belgian and French stock. Mr. Gerber's horse business is concentrated on his farm of 102 acres in section 6 of Washington Township. This is one of the finer farms of Adams County. He has a large barn, forty by eighty feet, with numerous other outbuildings and a substantial eight room farm home.

Mr. David Gerber was born on a farm in section 6 of Wabash Township, Adams County, March 1, 1861. In the locality of his birth he spent his early years, attending the country schools, and subsequently moved to Berne where for eleven years he had his headquarters as a stock dealer and meat merchant. He has been a resident of Decatur for the past twenty-four years.

His parents, Christian and Elizabeth (Smutt) Gerber, were both natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland. His father was born in 1802 and his mother in 1826 and they and all their ancestors were of the Swiss Reformed Church. They married in Switzerland and all their children except David were born in the old country. In 1852 the little family embarked on a sailing vessel from Antwerp and forty-two days later arrived in New York City. Thence they pursued their westward journey by railroad to Cleveland, on to Fort Wayne by the Miami Canal, and on the banks of the Canal they loaded their simple possessions into a wagon drawn by ox teams and came to what is now the Village of Berne when all that country was almost a total wilderness. The woods were filled with game when they arrived and they built their first homes in the woods. Here the father lived the industrious life of a farmer until his death in 1884. His widow survived him until 1914 and passed away at the age of eighty-eight.

David Gerber, who is the only one of his parents' children born in this country, has a brother and sister still living. The brother John lives at Berne, is a retired farmer and has a family of children. Rosetta is the wife of William Spiker, also a retired farmer at Berne, and they have children.

David Gerber married in Berne Miss Sarah Moeschberger, who was born in French Township of Adams County October 24, 1862. She is a daughter of Jacob and Rosa (Reafe) Moeschberger, both natives of Switzerland, who came with their respective parents to the United States in the early '50s, crossing the ocean by sailing vessel. For a few years these families lived in Ohio and then removed to French Township of Adams County, where Mrs. Gerber's grandparents spent their last years, after clearing up good farms. Jacob Moeschberger and wife were married in Decatur and established their home on a farm in French Township. Mrs. Gerber was next to the youngest child and was eighteen months old when her mother died at the birth of her thirteenth child. Both the mother and infant died, the mother being only thirty-four years of age. She had been married at the age of eighteen. Of these eight sons and five daughters twelve grew to maturity, ten married and seven are still living. Mrs. Gerber is now the only daughter of the family surviving. Her father Jacob Moeschberger afterwards spent many years in California, but finally returned to Adams County and lived here the last few years of his life until his death in 1905 at the age of eighty-two. He was a democrat and he and his wife were Reformed Church people.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerber have three living children. One daughter Nettie, born at Berne in 1888, died in infancy. Tilman H., the oldest of the three living, is a successful farmer in Washington Township. He married Lydia Heckman of Preble Township and their family consists of Helen G., Carl D. and Marcella C. Edgar H., who was born in 1889, is like his brother well educated in the public schools and is now engaged in the grocery business in Decatur. He married Lela Schafer of Union Township, Adams County. The daughter, Lulu E., born October 14, 1896, has finished her education in the Decatur High School, is pursuing work in music at Fort Wayne, and still is in the home circle. All the family are confirmed members of the Reformed Church. Mr. Gerber has been quite a prominent democrat in Adams County and in 1902 was elected county clerk, an office he filled with credit and efficiency for four years.

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Decatur. It is now eighty years since the first services of the Catholic Church were held in the pioneer village of Decatur. As recorded elsewhere, the town was laid out in 1836, and the first Catholic settlers came in 1837, Henry Dirkes, Henry Minter, Joseph Smith, Anthony Kohne and Bernard Holthaus. At the time the town was platted Samuel L. Ruggs, one of its founders, donated much land for public purposes, and gave lots for nearly all the churches, including one for the Catholic denomination. By 1838 there were several additions to the Catholic population and in the spring of that year Father Mueller came to celebrate the first mass at the home of George Fittich. He was a missionary priest, and though with the rapid growth of Decatur many other Catholic families came, the community was attended by missionaries for a number of years. The second priest at Decatur was Father Hamion. He officiated January 10, 1841, when the first Catholic marriage was solemnized between Timothy Coffee and Margaret Mueller. The first Catholic children baptized in the hamlet were Minnie Holthaus and Mary Closs.

The third priest was Father Joseph Rudolph, who undertook the arduous task of raising funds to construct a house of worship. With the assistance of the local Catholics he raised a few hundred dollars for that purpose, but the building was deferred for several years. In 1842 ground was purchased for a Catholic cemetery in the southeastern part of the village.

The fifth priest at Decatur was Father E. M. Faller, who in 1846 began the erection of the first Catholic Church edifice. The timbers for that building were hauled through the deep mud with ox teams by members of the Spuller family. Up to that time mass had been celebrated in the Fittich house, the Closs tavern and the old court house. The first church was plastered in 1847 and Father Faller paid $60 for the first church bell, bought at Cincinnati and shipped by canal to Fort Wayne. Father Faller increased the property of the church until it owned six lots, comprising a half block.

The first resident priest at Decatur was Father Schultes, who in 1852 erected the first priest's house. He remained until 1856 and was succeeded by numerous other priests who remained for varying intervals, seldom more than two years. Father John Wemhoff, who was local priest from 1865 until 1872, raised the money and supervised the laying of the foundation for the present brick church. This church was built and dedicated under Father S. Von Schwedler, who was local pastor from 1872 to 1877.

The priest who for the longest time presided over the destinies of St. Mary's congregation and is best remembered by the Catholic population of the county was Father H. Theodore Wilken, who came to Decatur in July, 1880, and performed his duties with continued zeal and efficiency until his death on October 20, 1913. One of his first labors was to erect a new brick schoolhouse, which was finished in 1881, and in 1885 he erected a new parsonage. This parsonage thirty years ago was ranked as the best building in the diocese of Fort Wayne. Father Wilken was especially zealous in the cause of education, and also did much to strengthen the influence of the Catholic Church all over Adams County. He was thoroughly beloved by his own parishoners, and came into close and intimate contact with people of all classes, and enjoyed their utmost respect.

The present pastor of St. Mary's Church is Rev. Julius A. Seimetz. He entered upon his duties as local pastor in February, 1914. He has continued the good work of his predecessor and now has a congregation of 300 families, nearly half of which come from the surrounding farming districts. The parochial school has an enrollment of 270 pupils, presided over by eight teachers. The school, church and parish house are all substantial buildings, but the congregation is now planning to build a new and larger church.

Father Seimetz was born in Michigan City, Indiana, April 17, 1871, and lived there until he was eighteen years of age. He then entered the college at Rensselaer, Indiana, going into that institution when its doors were first opened to students. He took his classical course there, and studied theology in St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee, graduating with the class of 1901. He was ordained June 21, 1901, at the cathedral at Fort Wayne by Rt. Rev. Herman Joseph Alerding. For a time he was assistant priest at Peru, Indiana, and then took his first regular pastorate at Reynolds, Indiana. He was there two years, and gave much vigor and vitality to that church, which was the only Catholic Church in White County and the center of all Catholic influences in that section of the state. From Reynolds Father Seimetz went to

Lafayette, Indiana, where for six years he was superintendent in charge of the Boys Orphanage.

Father Seimetz is a son of John and Mary (Timm) Seimetz, both born in the Rhine provinces of Germany. They came to America when young people and were married at Michigan City, where all their children were born and reared. Father Seimetz has a nephew, son of one of his sisters, who is now building the first parish house at Gary, Indiana. Another nephew, Joseph Seimetz, is assistant in St. Joseph's Church at Logansport, Indiana. Both these nephews are promising young pastors. Father Seimetz' parents are both now deceased, having passed away in Michigan City, Indiana, where they were active members and supporters of the Catholic Church.

Father Seimetz' assistant is Rev. Anthony J. Kroeger. He was born at Mendota, Illinois, July 5, 1890, but was reared and received his parochial school education at Aurora, Illinois. He took his classical, philosophical and theological courses in St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, graduating with the class of 1914. He was ordained June 27 of the same year at Fort Wayne by Bishop Alerding, and on the eighth of July arrived at Decatur to take up his work as assistant to Father Seimetz. He has won the confidence of the people and of his pastor, and is a hard-working, earnest and devoted young priest.

Frank Stafford. The Stafford family has for many years been identified with the industrial and commercial interests of Bluffton. N. E. Stafford is proprietor of the Bluffton Milling Company, while Mr. Frank Stafford, his son, is one of the live coal and grain merchants, having a large and well equipped establishment in the western part of the city.

Frank Stafford was born in Murray, Indiana, June 7, 1879, a son of N. E. and Louisa J. (Eversole) Stafford. His parents are still living in Bluffton. His father has served as trustee of Lancaster Township. At an early age he entered the milling business, selling his plant at Richmond, Indiana, in 1884, and then going into partnership with his cousin in the same business. After three years he went back to his old home town and conducted the mill there until 1903, when he bought the mill he now owns.

Frank Stafford was educated in the schools of his native town, also at Valparaiso and Marion, Indiana, and was a teacher in early life, having charge of some of the schools in Lancaster Township for four and a half years. He gave up school work in April, 1903, and coming to Bluffton assisted in rebuilding the mill and was associated with his father in business until March, 1910. He then bought the coal and grain business and is one of the leading dealers in grain, feed and coal. He also has a half interest in forty acres of land in Lancaster Township.

June 28, 1911, Mr. Stafford married Miss Bessie Davis of Rensselaer, Jasper County, Indiana. She was born at Wolcott, White County, and was well educated in the common schools and also in the musical conservatory of DePauw University. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 796 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is past chancellor of Lodge No. 259, Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a democrat.

David L. Wilkins is manager of the Boss Manufacturing Company at Bluffton. His experience from early boyhood has been chiefly in manufacturing lines, and with the present industry, and he has served

in every capacity from a humble employe earning 50 cents a day to management of plants in different parts of Indiana and Ohio.

Mr. Wilkins was born July 23, 1887, in Lancaster Township, a quarter of a mile east of the City of Bluffton. He is a son of William T. and Clara B. (Gambel) Wilkins. His father was a native of Michigan and his mother of Huntington County, Indiana. They were married in Wells County, and his father has followed different lines of employment and is now living at Fort Wayne.

David L. Wilkins was one of six sons. He was reared in Lancaster Township and also in the City of Bluffton, and attended public schools in both places. As a young man he began working in the local glove factory and filled places in different departments at Bluffton until he was eighteen, when he was transferred to Van Wert, Ohio, for about seven months, then at Findlay for a short time, at Mansfield, Ohio, two and a half years, and at Columbus about one year. He then returned to Indiana and was at Fort Wayne from December, 1914, until July, 1915, when he was returned to Bluffton and made local manager of the plant.

August 5, 1909, Mr. Wilkins married Hannah J. Rempis. She was born in Allen County, Indiana, daughter of F. J. Rempis, and is a graduate of the German Lutheran parochial schools. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins have two children: David V., born in 1914, and William F., born August 9, 1917. Mr. Wilkins is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and in politics is independent.

Gabriel Shrock was one of the fine upstanding citizens and progressive farmers of Harrison Township for a long period of years, and some of his children still live in Wells County and exemplify the probity of character and the industry which made him a notable man in his time.

He was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1831, and died at his home in Harrison Township June 29, 1909. His parents were Samuel and Christina (Harbaugh) Schrock, both natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Gabriel Schrock was a year old when his father died and after that he lived five years with his grandfather Harbaugh and then grew to his majority with an uncle, William McBride. He accompanied the McBride family to Wells County on February 21, 1841. Gabriel Shrock had limited advantages in the way of schools, and at an early age began learning the trade of cabinet maker from his uncle. On reaching his majority he started out for himself with no capital, but being a skilled man at his trade, found plenty of work to do and was not long in getting a start.

On May 23, 1854, he married Miss E. B. Gottschalk, who was born November 10, 1835, and died December 11, 1909. Her father, Jacob Gottschalk, was a native of Germany but had come to America when Mrs. Shrock was about six years old. Mr. and Mrs. Shrock were married at Bluffton by Rev. Mr. Black and they remained in that city, where he was employed at journeyman work for a couple of years. On September 16, 1856, he established a business of his own and in 1873 changed his occupation to carpentry for the sake of his health. On September 7, 1881, Gabriel Shrock moved to his farm in Harrison Township. He had previously bought the land, heavily covered with timber, and went industriously to work clearing it up and making it a highly cultivated and valuable homestead. For a number of years he owned and operated about 100 acres and was engaged in its tillage until his death. Gabriel Shrock was a democrat in politics and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bluffton. Seven children were born to Gabriel and Mrs. Shrock, five of whom grew to maturity. Mary J. was educated in the Bluffton schools and at the

age of fourteen began teaching and at one time was considered one of the best primary teachers in Indiana. She married John W. Owens, by whom she was the mother of one child, Mable, who married Seth Snider and lives in Lancaster Township. Mrs. Owens later became the wife of William Myers and is now deceased. The son George L. was educated in the public schools of Bluffton and is now married and in the grocery business at Hartford City, Indiana. Three children, Anna, J. A. Shrock and Belle, have never married and have always remained together. After the death of the parents they bought the old homestead but sold it in 1917 and then bought twenty-five acres in Harrison Township where they live with every comfort and convenience. J. A. Shrock was born in Bluffton and educated in the public schools there and is an active democrat. All the children were well educated and most of them were trained for work as teachers. Miss Belle Shrock has gained no small local reputation as a poultry raiser. They have a large flock of the single comb Brown Leghorn, and have besides much other good livestock. Miss Belle Shrock is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bluffton.

JOHN WILEY. One of the many well-to-do and substantial agriculturists of Wells County, John Wiley, of Liberty Township, has a fine farm of eighty acres, the greater part of which is under tillage and well supplied with comfortable and convenient farm buildings. A native of Indiana, he was born January 21, 1855, in Salmon Township, Huntington County, a son of Robert Wiley, coming from Virginian ancestry.

Robert Wiley was born in Virginia, where he lived until twelve years of age. He then accompanied his parents to Ohio, and a year later came with them to Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana, where he grew to man's estate. Becoming a farmer from choice, he located first in Salmon Township, Huntington County, and after three years in that locality, came with his family to Liberty Township, Wells County, where he spent the remainder of his life. He married Sarah Jones, a native of Huntington County, and to them eleven children were born, of whom seven are living, as follows: Perry, of Adams County; A. J.; Nancy, widow of L. D. Roush; Jane, wife of John Gordon, of Rock Creek Township; Mary, wife of Nat Baston, of Texas, and Mahala, who is married and lives in Texas; and John.

John Wiley has lived in Liberty Township since a child of three years, and since attaining manhood has been identified with its agricultural interests. He has a well improved farm, to the management of which he has ever devoted his time and energies, carrying on general farming after the most approved modern methods.

Mr. Wiley married Miss Nancy J. Day, and to them six children have been born, four of whom are living, namely: Willie E., residing in Liberty Center; Nettie, wife of Charles Moon, lives in Illinois; Dora, and Earl. Politically Mr. Wiley is a firm supporter of the principles of the democratic party.

JAMES HESHER. For many years Wells County people have congratulated themselves that one of the county's most important institutions, the County Infirmary, has been under the management and direction of the Hesher family. The present superintendent of the infirmary is Mr. James Hesher, and he succeeded his father Adam Hesher in that place. During both administrations the county farm has been conducted in an economical manner, has practically been self sustaining, and at

the same time the inmates have received the best of care and every appropriate provision for their comfort and welfare.

Mr. James Hesher was born on a farm in Lancaster Township half a mile north of Bluffton on the old Peter Studabaker farm July 10, 1884. His father, Adam Hesher, who is now living on a farm in Adamson Township, was born in Pike County, Ohio, June 21, 1855, a son of Frederick and Christina (Smith) Hesher. His parents were both natives of Germany, came to the United States when young, were married in Pike County, Ohio, and later removed to Fayette county in that state, where Frederick Hesher died. His widow subsequently came to Wells County, Indiana, and spent her last years. They were the parents of three sons: Fred Hesher, now in Illinois; Adam, and Abraham.

Adam Hesher was about seventeen years old when he came to Wells County, and found employment with the old pioneer Peter Studabaker. He worked faithfully for Mr. Studabaker thirteen years, and subsequently became manager of the old Studabaker farm. In April, 1877, he married Miss Elizabeth Ratliff, who was born in Ohio and was brought to Wells County, Indiana, when a girl. Adam Hesher was appointed superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary and entered upon the duties of that office in May, 1911, serving until March, 1914. His value as superintendent was greatly enhanced by the active co-operation of his very efficient wife. For eighteen years Adam Hesher served as gravel road superintendent for Wells County. He is a prominent democrat and a member of the American Mechanics Lodge. He and his wife had five children: David, who lives at Fort Wayne, Indiana; John, in the grocery business in Adams County; Frank, a farmer in Harrison Township; James, and Charles, a farmer in Harrison Township.

James Hesher grew up on a farm in Lancaster Township, and most of his education was acquired in the old Toll Gate schoolhouse. Schooling in winter and farming in summer made up his chief experiences until he was twenty-one, when he started out for himself and found employment at monthly wages on a farm. On February 19, 1906, he married Miss Jennie Lutz, who was born in Lancaster Township October 23, 1886, a daughter of Ephraim Lutz. Mrs. Hesher was educated in the common schools of Lancaster Center. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hesher located on a farm in Lancaster Township and later lived in Rock Creek Township, and in January, 1914, he accepted appointment to his present duties as superintendent of the Wells County Infirmary.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesher have two daughters: Carrie P., born May 26, 1907, and Josephine, born April 19, 1912. Mrs. Hesher is a member of the Murray Christian Church. In politics he is a democrat who has been quite active since reaching manhood and has served as a member of the Central Committee from Hancock Township. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Bluffton, and Mrs. Hesher is a member of the Maccabees.

James Lawrence Goodin. An industrious and enterprising young business man of Bluffton, James L. Goodin is eminently worthy of representation in a work of this character, not only as a native-born citizen of Wells County, but as the descendant of one of its early settlers. A son of James D. Goodin, he was born on a farm at Five Points, Chester Township, September 25, 1885.

Samuel Goodin, his paternal grandfather, was born and reared in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and was of honored Welsh ancestry. He was taken by his parents to Perry County, Ohio, when a boy, but

after his marriage settled in Morrow County, Ohio, where he resided until his death, April 24, 1854. He married, in 1835, Elizabeth Donaldson, who outlived him many years. In the spring of 1855, about one year after the death of her husband, Mrs. Elizabeth (Donaldson) Goodin migrated with her family to Allen County, Indiana. In February, 1858, she settled in Chester Township, Wells County, and was there a resident until her death, in 1880.

James D. Goodin was born March 17, 1836, in Morrow County, Ohio, and was there brought up and educated. He came with his mother to Indiana, and since taking up his residence in Chester Township, Wells County, has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, being now one of the most prosperous farmers of his community. He has been very active and influential in the administration of public affairs, and one of the leading members of the democratic party. In 1865 he was elected justice of the peace, and held the office four years. Elected trustee of Chester Township in 1869, he served in that capacity until the fall of 1873, when he was chosen county commissioner, a position which he filled satisfactorily for three years. For a period of twenty years he served as a director of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Huntington, Wells and Wabash counties. Fraternally he is a member of Montpelier Lodge No. 288, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

James D. Goodin has been twice married. He married first, in October, 1860, Nancy Twible. She was born in Blackford County, Indiana, a daughter of David and Margaret Twible. She died in February, 1872, having borne him five children, Madison, Elizabeth, Nettie, Ella, and a child that died in infancy. Mr. Goodin married for his second wife, November 13, 1873, Olive Ashbaugh, who was born in Logan County, Indiana, a daughter of Andrew and Matilda Ashbaugh. Two children blessed their union, namely: James L., the subject of this sketch, and Herman R. Herman R. Goodin was graduated from the Montpelier High School, after which he continued his studies at Purdue University for two years. He married, May 8, 1916, Viola Staten, who was graduated from high school at Elgin, Illinois, and from Western College, in Oxford, Ohio, and is an accomplished linguist, speaking French and German as fluently as she does English. He and his wife are living on a farm at Five Points, and are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

James Lawrence Goodin was graduated from the Montpelier High School with the class of 1906, after which he entered the Indiana University, at Bloomington, where he remained a student for nearly four years. Entering upon a professional career, Mr. Goodin taught school at Keystone two years and at District No. 4 in Chester Township one year. He was then made deputy surveyor and served under Charles W. Decker, surveyor, for two years. Subsequently forming a partnership with Mr. Decker, as junior member of the firm of Decker & Goodin, he was engaged in the real estate business until January 1, 1916, when the firm took the agency for the Overland automobiles and in that work met with decided success, having built up an extensive and lucrative trade, their sales being annually increased. December 1, 1917, Mr. Goodin sold out his interest in the Overland Agency and bought out Mr. Keplinger's interest in the agency for the Buick automobile, the Bluffton Buick Company.

Mr. Goodin married Goldie Shimp, who was born in Blackford County, Indiana, a daughter of Andrew Shimp. Politically Mr. Goodin is a stanch democrat. Fraternally he is a member of Bluffton Lodge

No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

ROBERT CASE. Active and progressive, and possessing decided business sagacity and judgment, Robert Case, of Decatur, is prominently identified with the promotion of the mercantile prosperity of Adams County, and as a dealer in grain and coal is carrying on an extensive business. A son of Almon Case, he was born, January 8, 1856, in Bluffton, Wells County, and was there brought up and educated. His ancestors for many generations lived and died in New England, his paternal grandparents, farmers, having resided in Connecticut.

Almon Case was born about 1808 in Connecticut, on his father's farm, not very far from Hartford. As a boy he became familiar with the different branches of agriculture, while assisting his father gathering valuable knowledge and experience. Soon after his marriage to his first wife he decided to go west where he could follow his chosen occupation much more advantageously, one of his brothers having previously settled permanently in Iowa, where he found cheaper land. Following the emigrant's trail, he made his way to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, and there took up land and began the improvement of a farm. There his wife died, leaving two children, both of whom went to live with their maternal grandparents.

About 1833 Almon Case left Ohio and came as far west as Wells County, Indiana, and located at Bluffton before the town was laid out. Subsequently, when the town was platted, he was given his choice of the town lots, and agreed therefor to build a hotel. He erected a double log cabin, two stories high, Adney Hall, a Connecticut man, who had induced Mr. Case to locate in Bluffton, where he had settled a year earlier, furnishing the oxen to haul the logs for the cabin. The hotel property is now known as the Curry property. The old hotel was burned in 1842, and Mr. Almon Case later erected a two-story frame house on the present site of the Wells County Bank and ran it as the "Exchange Hotel" until 1862. The following two years he was engaged in the live stock business at Fort Wayne, Indiana; returning then to Wells County, he bought a farm and there both he and his wife spent their remaining days, his death occurring May 7, 1875, and hers March 17, 1880, at the age of sixty-seven years. He was a straightforward republican in politics, and served as the first postmaster of Bluffton. He was known as a man of honest integrity and sterling worth, his word at all times being as good as his bond.

The maiden name of the second wife of Almon Case, to whom he was married in Ohio, was Mindwell Hayes. She was born in Connecticut in 1813. Of his union with his second wife the following children were born, namely: Scott, deceased, born in Ohio; Catherine, deceased, left two sons at her death, her husband having been Snyder Filson; John, third child of Almon Case; Elizabeth, who had the distinction of being the first female child born in Bluffton, was twice married, by her first husband having two children, and by her second husband, Dr. Horton, one child; Almon, Jr., was accidentally killed in his father's woolen mill when but seventeen years old; Helen, widow of the late S. M. Cummings, of Elkhart, Indiana, has two daughters; Hamilton died at St. Louis, Missouri, in February, 1915, leaving a widow and four children; and Robert, of whom we write.

After the death of his father Robert Case carried on the home farm for ten years, and then moved to Magley, Adams County, where for twenty-six years he carried on a successful business as a general merchant. Going from there to Indianapolis, he spent a year in that

metropolis, and in 1910 accepted the position of manager of a grain business in Decatur. Succeeding well in that capacity, Mr. Case is now an active member of that grain firm, and as its manager is carrying on a large and lucrative business, having a capacious elevator, and likewise coal sheds, well located on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad.

Mr. Case married in Vera Cruz, Wells County, Sarah Arnold, a native of Adams County, and into their pleasant home seven children have been born, namely: Theodore, died in infancy; Mindwell, wife of Frank Anna, of Chicago, has two children, Robert C. and Sarah E.; George, a graduate pharmacist, married Adelle Walderman, an Indianapolis girl, and is now a druggist in Indianapolis; Ralph, also a druggist in Indianapolis, is married; Irven, field manager at Elkhart, Indiana, for the Lincoln Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, is married and has two children, Mary E. and Virginia, twins; John Robert, representing a Chicago supply house; and Harold, at home with his father. Politically Mr. Case is a strong republican, and fraternally he is a prominent member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, belonging to lodge, chapter and council.

Levi Huffman is proprietor of the Wheatland Farm of Jackson Township, Wells County. That farm has been the home of the Huffmans in this county for more than three quarters of a century. It is a conspicuous example of thoroughgoing and efficient agricultural management. When the first Huffmans took possession of the land it had no productiveness so far as the uses of civilized land were concerned. Its improvement has been a process of slow and steady work carried on from one generation to the other. While there is a great deal of interest naturally centering in this farm, because of its value and the many associations with the lives of these worthy people, the farm itself is only one expression of the life and character of its owner. Mr. Huffman has for years been an important figure in the citizenship of Wells County. He has rendered a good account of his time and energies and opportunities, whether in the cultivation of his fields or in looking after the varied relationships he has sustained to the community welfare.

Mr. Huffman was born October 20, 1850, on the farm which is now known as the Wheatland Farm. The Huffmans came to Wells County from Ohio. His grandfather, Adam Huffman, was one of the earliest settlers of Clark County in that state. Levi Huffman's parents were Henry and Catherine (Baker) Huffman, the former a native of Clark County, Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania, a daughter of Adam Baker. Henry Huffman came into Wells County, Indiana, in 1840. At that time he entered land in Jackson Township. That land is now a portion of the Wheatland Farm, and Levi Huffman has in his possession an old parchment deed bearing the name of President Martin Van Buren as an evidence of title to this property. Not a stick of timber had been felled and not a foot of ground had been plowed when Henry Huffman took possession of his homestead. He was a man of sturdy mold, and well fitted for the heavy responsibilities of pioneering. His own hands cleared away acre after acre of the woods, and by the time Levi Huffman was old enough to appreciate his surroundings, the greater part of the ninety acres were in cultivation. Henry Huffman subsequently added to his place until he had 170 acres. The first home of the family, where Levi Huffman was born, was a log house. In 1867 it was replaced by a more substantial frame structure, at the time one of the best homes in Jackson Township. It is said that when the Huffman family first came to Jackson Township they could not proceed fifteen rods in the woods in

any direction from their home without danger of getting lost. Henry Huffman was a resident of Wells County for over forty years. He died in the fall of 1883. His first wife was Elizabeth Ebersole, who died leaving four children, Jacob, Catherine, Sallie and Peter. His second wife, Catherine (Baker) Huffman, died just four weeks and three days before his passing. They became the parents of ten children: Frederick, George, Henry, Lydia, John, Samuel, Levi, Eliza, Eva and Mary. All of these fourteen children of Henry Huffman came to maturity, and their strong and vigorous lives are evidence of the physical and mental character they inherited from their ancestors.

The strong constitution he inherited has enabled Levi Huffman during a long career to accomplish much more than the ordinary man. As a youth he was enured to hard and honest toil, and he was earning the equivalent of a living even as a schoolboy. He continued to attend the public schools of Jackson Township during the winter terms until his twentieth year. For a time he rented a portion of his father's home on shares, and also rented other land of his neighbors. In this way he gradually got something ahead and was looked upon as one of the coming young men of the county.

On December 31, 1874, he established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Martha Coolman, daughter of William and Mary A. (McKee) Coolman. Her parents were natives of Ohio and early settlers of Huntington County, Indiana. With a wife as a companion and counsellor and with the responsibilities of home, Mr. Huffman began housekeeping in a little log house on a forty acre tract of land which his father subsequently purchased. Here his labors were prospered for seven years. In the meantime his father was growing old, and he returned to the home place to take its active management from his shoulders. After that he lived with his parents until he passed away and gave them the utmost of his affection and devotion. In the meantime he had bought some land in Blackford county, but sold it and then acquired the interests of the other heirs in the old family place. Here he has lived as proprietor since 1883 and it is his management chiefly that has given the Wheatland Farm its well deserved fame among the agricultural homesteads of Jackson Township. One improvement after another has been made and a large part of the revenues from the land have returned to its improvement and enrichment. In 1884 he erected one of the most commodious barns in the township, and his modern residence followed five years later.

Mr. Huffman has always been a combination crop grower and stock raiser. His farm comprises about 400 acres, and at one time there were a number of producing oil wells on the land.

His investments have also gone into other properties, including a business block in the town of Warren and dwelling houses and other property in Montpelier. For a number of years Mr. Huffman has had varied interests to look after, but finds his chief pleasure still in supervising his fields and the growing and breeding of fine livestock. He has been one of the leading Shorthorn cattle breeders of the county, and has also handled Poland China and Duroc hogs. From his farm many high grade animals have been introduced to other farms in the county and have served to raise the standards of livestock in the entire county.

Material prosperity has always been the means and not the ultimate end and aim of Mr. Huffman's career. He and his wife have long been devoted members of the German Baptist Church, and through the church and its varied activities have not only expressed their own religious ideals but have found a means of doing good and enriching the moral life of their community. He has been interested in politics

chiefly as the instrument through which worthy community projects can be carried out. He has always been a democratic voter, is a man of strong convictions on political and economic questions, and he rendered some valuable service to the county as county commissioner from 1907 to 1910. He is now a member of the Wells County Hospital Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have two children, Ardella and Josephine A. Ardella is the wife of Watson Hayward. Josephine A. married Daniel Roscoe Hardman.

Daniel R. Hardman, who with his wife occupies a fine farm in Jackson Township two miles west of Mount Zion and four miles southeast of Warren, was born in Lancaster Township of Wells County February 17, 1875, a son of Joel P. and Martha P. (Winebrenner) Hardman. He grew up on a farm near Lancaster Center in Huntington County, was educated in the common schools, and for a time was a student in the Monument School and took special training at Huntington. For five years he taught in Lancaster Township and for a similar period was a teacher in Salamonie Township. Though his work as a teacher made him exceedingly popular in that vocation, he finally gave it up for a business career. He was for ten years in charge of the Montpelier Lumber Company at Montpelier, but in 1913 came to the farm where he now lives. On March 3, 1898, Mr. Hardman married Miss Josephine A. Huffman. They have one daughter, Margaret. They are active members of the Church of the Brethren and Mr. Hardman is a democratic voter.

Frank E. Ehle. Standing upon a high plane of affluence and influence is Frank E. Ehle, a well known druggist of Bluffton, Indiana. Brought up on a farm in French Township, Adams County, he there acquired his rudimentary education, attending the District School until fifteen years old. On September 4, 1890, he entered the Bluffton High School where he continued his studies for three years. The ensuing eighteen months Mr. Ehle was salesman in a dry goods store, and for a time after that was variously employed. From September, 1894, until September, 1895, he was employed as a clerk in the drug store of L. C. Davenport, in Bluffton, and there made his initial acquaintance with the drug business. Going then to Lafayette, Indiana, Mr. Ehle entered Purdue University, from which he was graduated with the degrees of Ph. C. and Ph. G. in the spring of 1897. He immediately returned to Bluffton and four years later, in March, 1901, bought a half interest in the business of his employer, L. C. Davenport, and began life for himself as junior member of the firm of Davenport & Ehle. On January 13, 1917, Mr. Davenport died, but the business has since been continued under the same name. This firm has been successful in its operations, being financially interested in other drug establishments, including one at Decatur and one at Huntington and the Public Drug Company at Bluffton, Indiana. Mr. Ehle is also connected with a 5 and 10-cent store at Wabash, Indiana, and is one of the directors of the W. B. Brown Company.

Mr. Ehle is an active and worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and as one of its official board is prominent in the management of its affairs. Fraternally Mr. Ehle is influential in Masonic circles, being a member, and past master, of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; a member, and high priest, of Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons; a member of Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and of the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Politically he is a republican and actively interested in current affairs, regardless of party affiliations.

A. A. Hauk. The opportunities presented by Wells County, Indiana, for successful agriculture, have been recognized by many men of farm experience and matured judgment, and one of these is A. A. Hauk, who owns the northeast one quarter of section 19, Harrison Township. It is a valuable property and Mr. Hauk has made many substantial improvements here.

A. A. Hauk was born in Montgomery County, Indiana, December 17, 1859, and is a son of Daniel and Missouri (Tracy) Hauk. His father was born March 4, 1830, at Venice, in Erie County, Ohio, and his mother in Montgomery County, Indiana. Daniel Hauk was six years old when he accompanied his parents to Montgomery County, and he was reared near Waynetown, where the family lived until 1860. He was married in Montgomery County and some time afterward moved to Benton County, Indiana, where he entered 160 acres of land from the government, for which he paid $1.25 per acre. It was a wise investment as in 1901 he sold that same land for $200 per acre. After the death of his wife, Daniel Hauk returned to Montgomery County and still resides there. He has always been a democrat in politics and is a member of the Christian Church. He is known as an honest, upright man and a true Christian. His family consisted of five sons and two daughters. All the sons died in infancy except A. A. One daughter also survives, Miss Sarah, who lives with her father in Montgomery County, carefully looking after his comfort as he is now an aged man.

A. A. Hauk was three years old when the family moved to Benton County and there he obtained his education in the district schools. After his mother's death his father returned to Montgomery County as stated above, but he remained on the Benton County farm until 1901, and after it was sold came to his present property in Wells County.

Mr. Hauk was married first to Miss Emma Moore, who died after the birth of two children, a daughter and son, Ethel and Earl. The former is the wife of Albert Sterner, a farmer in Harrison Township, and the latter is operating his own farm in Montgomery County. Mr. Hauk's second marriage was to Miss Eliza Watson, and they have two children, Ida and George A. The former, a highly educated young lady, is a graduate of the Bluffton High School and of Defiance College, and is a teacher in the Tocsin High School. George A. is a prosperous farmer in Harrison Township, Wells County. He married Miss Fay Chalfont.

In politics Mr. Hauk is a sound democrat. He has never desired political honors although men of his good, common sense and practical ideas are invaluable as public officials. He is a faithful member and liberal supporter of the Six Mile Christian Church. He is well known over several counties and everywhere is held in respect.

Charles B. Gavin. A worthy and able representative of the agricultural interests of Wells County, Liberty Township, Charles B. Gavin is successfully engaged in his pleasant calling on a well cultivated farm, which is furnished with an excellent set of buildings and plenty of farming machinery of the most approved kinds. A son of James B. Gavin, he was born, July 29, 1872, on the farm he now owns and occupies.

His paternal grandfather, George Gavin, was born, bred and educated in Ireland. During his earlier life he was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, or government police force, as such doing duty in some

of the larger cities of the Emerald Isle. Immigrating with his family to the United States in 1848, he spent six years in Ross County, Ohio, from there coming, in 1854, to Wells County, Indiana. He first bought land in Harrison Township, near Six Mile, but later bought land in section 5, Liberty Township, where he continued a farmer during his remaining days. He married, in Ireland, Mary Benton, who bore him seven children, as follows: Robert, Mary, Sarah, James B., Delilah, Henry J., and Henrietta.

Born in County Galway, Ireland, August 10, 1845, James B. Gavin was but two years old when brought by his parents to the United States. Selecting farming as his occupation, he managed the parental homestead for about five years after his marriage, after which he bought 160 acres of land in section 36, Liberty Township, and moved upon it. He subsequently purchased eighty acres of near-by land, and by subsequent investments obtained title to upwards of 500 acres of good land in Liberty Township. He has more recently divided his land among his children, and is now living retired from active business, his home, since 1907, having been at No. 218 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana.

James B. Gavin married, March 31, 1870, Rebecca Hedges. She was born in Harrison Township, Wells County, July 6, 1848, a daughter of Robert and Sophia (Kirkwood) Hedges, and granddaughter of Elijah Hedges, who came to Indiana from Virginia in pioneer days. Eight children were born of their union, five of whom are living, as follows: Charles B.; William J.; Mary, wife of B. F. Buckner, of Liberty Township; Frank T., of Bluffton; and Theophilus, who was graduated from college in Adrian, Michigan, taught school in both Texas and Kansas and is now a resident of Liberty Township.

Having acquired his rudimentary education in the district schools, Charles B. Gavin continued his studies for a year at the Marion Normal School. Beginning life for himself, he migrated to Kansas, and for about a year was located in Marshall County. Not at all pleased with his prospects in that state, he returned to his home state and resumed farming. Subsequently Mr. Gavin moved with his family to North Dakota, where he purchased 160 acres of wild land, and began its improvement, his home in the meantime having been near Aberdeen, South Dakota. Three years later, in November, 1911, Mr. Gavin assumed possession of the eighty-acre farm he now owns and occupies.

Mr. Gavin married, September 30, 1894, Miss Lydia M. Bay, who was born in Liberty Township, a daughter of Harrison and Jane (Shoemaker) Bay. Five children have been born into the household thus established, namely: Harry B., now serving as a soldier, is stationed at San Antonio, Texas; Cecil B.; George D.; Garrett; and James R. Politically Mr. Gavin is an earnest supporter of the principles of the democratic party. Fraternally he is a member, and past noble grand, of Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; a member, also, of the Bluffton Encampment; and of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Forrest Riddile, a prosperous and successful farmer of Rock Creek Township near Uniondale, is cultivating land which has been in the continuous ownership and occupation of members of his family for three successive generations. Four generations of the family have been represented in Wells County.

His great-grandfather, Samuel J. Riddile, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1800, a son of Samuel and Martha (Johnson) Riddile and a grandson of David Riddile who was of Scotch descent.

Samuel Riddile moved to Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1807, and became prominent as the owner of a saw and grist mill, a carding mill, and also operated a distillery for a time. It was in that county that Samuel J. Riddile grew to manhood, and in 1824 he married Miss Matilda Taylor, who was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in 1800, daughter of George and Betsy Taylor, of Irish ancestry. The Taylor family had moved to Portage County, Ohio, in 1804. After his marriage Samuel J. Riddile settled on a farm near his father's home, but in 1840 came to Wells County, Indiana, and bought 160 acres of wild land near Bluffton. He developed and improved that place and lived there until his death in 1855. At the time of his death he was and had been for a number of years an elder in the Presbyterian Church. His wife died in 1850.

Samuel L. Riddile, grandfather of Forrest Riddile, was one of a family of five children, and was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, March 12, 1827. He was thirteen years of age when his parents came to Wells County, and he was old enough to take an active part in the clearing of the woods and the development of a pioneer farm. His education was largely acquired in a subscription school held in a log cabin. After reaching manhood he was given eighty acres of the old homestead by his father, and he proceeded industriously with the clearing away of the woods and the making of a good farm. This place was in Harrison Township, but in 1864 he sold it and bought 160 acres in section 12 of Rock Creek Township. In 1886 he removed to Bluffton. He was an active democrat, filled the office of township trustee and was also a county commissioner. He and his wife were stanch members of the Presbyterian Church. Samuel L. Riddile married March 10, 1857, Miss Mary A. Van Emon, who was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1837, and was brought to Wells County by her parents in 1847. The children of Samuel L. Riddile and wife were three in number, the only son being James Theodore.

James Theodore Riddile, father of Forrest, was for many years identified with the farming activities of Wells County, assisted his father in clearing some of the land, and lived in Rock Creek Township until his death on February 17, 1900. He married Lizzie King, also a native of Wells County, and she is still living. There were only two children, Mary, deceased, and Forrest.

Forrest Riddile was born on the old homestead in Rock Creek Township October 29, 1893. He acquired a good education in the public schools of Bluffton and also took a course in the Agricultural School at Winona, Indiana. Mr. Riddile is now owner of ninety-two acres of land and his mother owns a place of forty-seven acres. All of this is under his personal direction, and either as an agriculturist or as a public spirited citizen he has done credit to a family that has been for so long identified with this county. He is a republican voter and a member of the Reformed Church.

Mr. Riddile married Miss Bertha Viola Schwartz, daughter of Oscar and Annie Schwartz of Rock Creek Township. Three children have been born to their marriage: Lloyd S., Alice Evangeline and Martha Mary. Mrs. Riddile has brothers and sisters named David, Otis, Sela and Ida, all unmarried.

Mrs. Susannah Snyder. It is a wonderful thing to have lived to be ninety-two years old and such has been the experience of Mrs. Susannah Snyder, who has been a resident of Lancaster Township and on the same farm, for the past fifty-seven years. Mrs. Snyder is one of the best

known women in this part of Wells County and has family and friends who love and esteem her.

Mrs. Snyder was born in Greene County, Ohio, September 21, 1826. Her father was named John W. Wolf and he was twice married, first to Mary Hawker and second to Rebecca Swadner. The children of his first marriage were: Israel, Andrew, Catherine, Abraham, Susannah, George, Mary, Louise and Malinda. Those of the second marriage were: William, Benjamin, John M., Edward, Martha and Elizabeth. The parents of Mrs. Snyder were born in Pennsylvania and moved to Green County, Ohio, before the War of 1812. The father died June 21, 1877.

Mrs. Snyder was reared in Ohio and was married there September 23, 1852, to John Frederick Snyder, who was born in Germany June 24, 1816, and died April 21, 1877, in Wells County, Indiana. He came here in 1861 with his family. They had 133 acres of very valuable land which is now owned by the son, Walter D., who lives with his mother, and carries on general farming and stockraising and is counted one of the good farmers of the township.

Mrs. Snyder has three children: Charles Allen, a practicing physician of Dubuque, Iowa, for 31 years, married Hattie Richards, of Farley, Iowa; Alice Augusta, who married Newton Hannah, of Wells County, died December 2, 1897; and Walter D., who is unmarried. Walter D. Snyder is one of the staunch democrats of this section of the county but has never been willing to serve in any political office. He belongs to the Order of the Moose and is identified with Lodge No. 242 at Bluffton, Indiana.

Although it was not a pioneer period when Mrs. Snyder came to Wells County, conditions of living were very different from now and many of the comforts she enjoys were not even thought of at that time. Her farm also was largely unimproved land and there was much hard work to be done by the whole family before its present fine condition was even approached. For one of her years Mrs. Snyder is very active and keeps interested in all that goes on about her and loves to have her many friends visit her. She has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for many years.

William I. Clingenpeel. Indiana people have great reason to be proud of their fine gravel roads, in the making of which many thousands of dollars have been expended, and their care and supervision requires the services of dependable, experienced men. Such a man is found in William I. Clingenpeel, who, for the past eight years has been the efficient superintendent of twenty-five miles of gravel roads. Mr. Clingenpeel is also a large fruit grower in Jackson Township, Wells County.

William I. Clingenpeel was born in Wayne Township, Huntington County, Indiana, February 17, 1856. His parents were Jacob F. and Lavina (Batson) Clingenpeel. His father was born in Germany and in boyhood came to the United States. He grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and then came to Indiana, settling on land twelve miles west of Warren, on which he resided until 1856, when he moved to Jackson Township, in Wells County. One year later he removed to Wabash County, Indiana, where he made his home for seven years and then returned to Huntington County. About nine months later his wife died and he returned then to Wells County and lived with his son, William I. Clingenpeel, but finally died in Huntington County. He was the father of seven children and three of these survive, namely: Abraham, who lives in Pulaski County, Indiana; Willard, who resides in Huntington County; and William I., of Wells County.

William I. Clingenpeel was eleven years old when his beloved mother

died and her departure was a sad blow to the whole family. His father, as noted above, returned with him to Wells County but the boy had his own way to make in the world, his father not being able to assist him. Therefore he had but meager educational advantages and for a number of years led a very toilsome life. He made friends, however, through his integrity and cheerful industry, and by the time he was twenty-six years old was in comfortable enough financial circumstances as to enable him to marry. On February 25, 1882, he was united with Miss Anna E. McElhaney, who was born in Liberty Township, Wells County, May 17, 1860. After marriage they settled 2½ miles distant from her father's farm and Mr. Clingenpeel has devoted himself mainly to the growing of fruit and has been very successful. A large part of his time, however, is taken up by the duties of his public office.

Mr. and Mrs. Clingenpeel have two children, namely: Mertie P., who is the wife of Lloyd Stroup, of Salamonie Township, Huntington County, Indiana; and Alma, who is the wife of Benjamin E. Huffman, a farmer of the above township. Both daughters were given educational opportunities and were reared to be capable and frugal housekeepers by a careful mother. Mr. and Mrs. Clingenpeel are among the valued members of the United Brethren Church at Mount Zion, Indiana, and both by precept and example are good influences in their community. Mr. Clingenpeel has always been identified with the democratic party since he cast his first vote.

Bruce W. Shoemaker, one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of Wells County, is the owner of a handsome farm of 240 acres in Lancaster Township. His methods of farm management show sound judgment, combined with deep scientific knowledge of his vocation, and the results of his labors demonstrate the fact that high class farming as an occupation may be made profitable as well as pleasant. He has spent nearly all his life since infancy in Wells County and during that time has firmly established himself in the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens.

He is a son of a Wells County pioneer, the late John Shoemaker. John Shoemaker was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 22, 1819. His grandfather, John, was a native of England. The parents of the Wells County pioneer were William and Betsey (Welcer) Shoemaker, the former a native of Maryland and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of John Welcer, of German ancestry. John Shoemaker when a child and after his mother's death went to the home of his grandparents and lived with them until he was nineteen. He had to content himself with a limited amount of schooling. While learning the blacksmith's trade he served an apprenticeship of two years, his wages being only $2.50 a month. After a year of work as a journeyman he set up a shop in Mahoning County, Ohio, and followed his trade there for twelve years.

John Shoemaker came to Wells County in 1854. During the next ten years he was known as one of the reliable and industrious blacksmiths of Bluffton, and while at his trade gradually accumulated the capital which enabled him to fulfill his desires and become a farmer. In 1864 he moved to a tract of 200 acres of unimproved land in sections 5 and 8 of Harrison Township, and his labors gradually transformed that land into one of the best farms according to the standards of earlier years. The farm has special interest because the first tile factory in Wells County was established on part of the land in 1868. It was continued in operation until 1884, and during those years most of the tile used for drainage in Wells and adjoining counties was made in that factory.

John Shoemaker exemplified a sturdy character both as a farmer, business man and citizen, was a stanch supporter of the republican party, and he and his wife were devout members of the Christian Church. He married, March 17, 1842, Rachel Johnson, who was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1825, daughter of John and Catherine (Kline) Johnson, both natives of Pennsylvania, her father of English and her mother of German ancestry. When Mrs. John Shoemaker was ten years of age her parents moved to Ohio. Ten children were born to John Shoemaker and wife, and the eight who reached mature years were Warren K., Bruce W., John J., Taylor F., Jane, Harriet, Ella and Lizzie.

Bruce W. Shoemaker was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, October 23, 1852, but has no memory of his birthplace, since when he was two years of age the family came to Wells County. He spent part of his boyhood in Bluffton, but his chief memories center around the old homestead in Harrison Township. There he grew to manhood, finished his education in the local schools and for the past forty years has been one of the active farmers of his community. Mr. Shoemaker is a republican in politics.

September 7, 1880, he married Anna F. Quick, daughter of John and Annie E. (Beeler) Quick. Mrs. Shoemaker has two sisters: Julia E., wife of Robert Reynolds, and Emma R., who married Stout Patterson and lives at Seattle, Washington. She also has a half sister, living at Bluffton and half brothers named James R. and John W., the latter a bookkeeper for the Gulf Refining Company and living at Port Arthur, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker have a family of four capable sons, John W., Harry E., Raymond B. and Ernest H. Only one is married, John W., whose wife was Jeanette Sherlock, of Port Arthur, Texas. The son Harry's career has been followed with special interest and is a matter of pride to all Wells County people. He graduated from the Annapolis Naval Academy in 1905, and now ranks as a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy. The son Raymond is a teacher in the manual training school at Gary, Indiana. These sons were all well educated, and Mr. Bruce Shoemaker himself is a man of more than average education and attainments, having spent three years in the University of Indiana at Bloomington before taking up his steady work as a farmer.

George F. McFarren. Any number of successful business men in Wells County and elsewhere have frequently taken the opportunity to express their gratitude for the business training and association they had with the late George F. McFarren, whose name stands out as one of the most conspicuous merchants, business men and citizens who honored Bluffton with their presence and activity.

George F. McFarren was born in Salamonie Township of Huntington County, Indiana, May 30, 1844, and in the maturity of years and performance died at Bluffton June 8, 1913. He was a son of Jacob and Rachel McFarren, who were pioneer farmers and citizens of Huntington County. Jacob McFarren enjoyed a good deal of prosperity for his time and period, and his son owed much to him for the early influences that surrounded his life. The father saw to it that the boy had ample opportunities to secure an education.

With his boyhood days spent on the farm in Huntington County George F. McFarren accompanied his parents in the '50s to Wells County, and as strength permitted he took an increasing share of the responsibilities on the farm, attending district school regularly every winter. He made such good use of his opportunities in this way that he became a teacher and for several years taught, and might have had a

brilliant career in that profession had he chosen it permanently. He was especially proficient in mathematics and in his time was regarded with hardly a peer in that subject in Wells County.

To secure a better commercial training he entered the Iron City Commercial School at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, taking the regular course in bookkeeping. In 1866 returning to Bluffton he was offered the position of deputy auditor and filled that place with marked ability. Later he engaged in the grocery business and was soon enjoying a trade far beyond his most ardent expectations.

In 1880 Mr. McFarren bought an old property at the northeast corner of Main Street and Market Street in Bluffton, tore down the old building, and replaced it with a substantial brick structure which is still standing and is still one of the best business buildings in the city. Here he opened the general clothing business with which he was actively connected until his death. He was the type of business man who figures everything out accurately before venturing and pursued his object with such energy that he made his plans as nearly perfect as is ever possible in human affairs. At the organization of the Wells County Bank he was one of its promoters and remained on the board of directors until his death. He also invested heavily in the oil districts of Adams and Wells counties, and that investment was another proof of his foresight and good judgment.

Those who were long and closely associated with him will recall his readiness to support and promote any just and honorable cause for the benefit of the community. But his usefulness as a citizen went beyond this point and he was equally aggressive in combating anything which he believed would result in harm to the city or county. He was a very active member and liberal supporter of the Baptist Church. Honest toil, perfect integrity of character, and shrewd and accurate business judgment were the factors chiefly responsible for George F. McFarren's high position in business and civic affairs at Bluffton.

He was twice married. December 25, 1866, Martha J. Miller became his wife. She died June 14, 1874, leaving one daughter, W. M., who was born May 9, 1869, graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1886 and is now the wife of Will S. Smith of Bluffton. On December 28, 1875, Mr. McFarren married Martha J. Bennett. She was born in Bluffton December 1, 1849, a daughter of R. C. and Harriet Bennett, one of the oldest and most prominent families of Wells County. By this marriage George F. McFarren had two sons: Harry A., born April 2, 1877, and Earl R., born May 15, 1884.

Earl R. McFarren, who inherits much of the business ability of his honored father, is one of the live and enterprising merchants of Bluffton. He was born at the northeast corner of Main and Market streets in Bluffton May 15, 1884. In his native city he spent his early life, attended the Bluffton High School and for three years was in the Howe Military School at Howe, Indiana,. where in addition to literary studies he acquired much knowledge of military technique. He was also a student at Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana. Mr. McFarren served a thorough business apprenticeship under his father and is now proprietor of the McFarren shoe store and is also owner of the Home Ice Plant. He has a half interest in the five and ten cent store at Greenfield, Indiana.

April 27, 1904, Mr. McFarren married Miss Mary E. Hanna, who was born and reared in Boone County, Indiana, coming to Wells County with her mother who was a sister of Mr. John A. Morris. Mr. and Mrs. McFarren have two children: George F., born December 3, 1908; and Mary J., born January 26, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. McFarren are active members and supporters of the Baptist Church. He is affiliated with

Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, with the Royal Arch Chapter, with Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters, Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, being a thirty-second degree Mason and member of Mizpah Shrine, Fort Wayne. He is also identified with the Scottish Rite at Fort Wayne. With the Knights of Pythias he is affiliated in Bluffton Lodge No. 92. Mr. McFarran is a democrat, though politics makes a slight demand upon his time and aside from his business he gives his chief support to the broader movements which represent the welfare of the community.

William L. Jones. Among the highly respected members of the agricultural fraternity in Chester Township none stands higher in public esteem than William L. Jones. With the exception of several short periods he has made his home here all his life and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural interests, for he has made farming his life work, and today is the owner of a property consisting of eighty acres, his home being located on Poneto Rural Route No. 1.

Mr. Jones was born on a farm in Jackson County, Ohio, May 14, 1853, and is a son of Robert F. and Lavina (Tripp) Jones, who were both born and reared in Ohio and there married. After the birth of three of their children, they came to Wells County, in September, 1853, and settled on the farm which is now owned by their son William L. They were honest and honorable people who won the confidence and respect of the people of their neighborhood, large of heart and generous of hand. Both rounded out well filled lives amid the surroundings of an agricultural atmosphere, and here passed away. Mr. Jones the elder was somewhat active in local politics, although principally as a supporter of others and seldom as a candidate. However, he served acceptably for three years in the capacity of township assessor. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge. Of the eight children born to him and Mrs. Jones, four are now living: James A., a resident of Illinois; William L.; Theodore, whose home is in the state of Washington; and Oliver, who lives in Alaska.

William L. Jones was still a babe in arms when brought by his parents to Wells County, and his earliest recollections are connected with the home farm and the primitive conditions which still existed. During his boyhood he assisted in the cultivation of the family acres and in the meantime secured his education by attending the district school in the neighborhood of the Jones place. Upon several occasions he went away from home to work, but dutifully sent his wages to his parents, and it was not until he was twenty-one years old that he had money of his own to spend as he wished. Farming up to and after that time was his principal occupation, but he also worked for a short period in a sawmill at Bluffton and put in quite a good deal of time as a ditch contractor, of both of which employments he made a success. He was careful with his earnings, saving them thriftily, and when his parents died he bought the home place, taking over by purchase the interests of the other heirs to the estate. At the present time he is the owner of eighty acres of well-cultivated and productive land, lying in section 5, Chester Township, where he had modern improvements and good buildings. He has made a decided success of his operations as a general farmer, being thoroughly informed as to every department of his vocation, while in the estimation of the community he has shown his worth and usefulness as a public-spirited citizen. Personally he is big-hearted and generous and willing to help worthy movements. Fraternally, Mr. Jones is identified with Mount Zion Lodge No. 684, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past noble grand, and a member of the Grand Lodge of the

state. He is a democrat and has always been active in local affairs, although he has not cared for office. Mr. Jones is unmarried.

William F. Newhard. The work and activities of the Newhard family especially identify them with that section of Wells County in and around Uniondale, a village in Union Township which largely owes its primary business enterprise and upbuilding to the Newhards. William F. Newhard himself was in business there for a number of years, but subsequently took up farming in Rock Creek Township, where he still has his home.

Mr. Newhard was born in Ohio and was a small child when his parents came to Wells County in 1859. His grandparents, Samuel anl Elizabeth (Weaver) Newhard, were natives of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. William J. Newhard, father of William F., was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and in 1837 removed with his parents and other children to Mahoning County, Ohio, where his mother died. William J. Newhard was the only one of his parents' family to come to Indiana. On December 15, 1853, he married Mary A. Ashburn, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hart) Ashburn. She died August 18, 1874, the mother of seven children, the first three born in Ohio. Their names were Sarah E., Henry N., William F., Emma E., Samuel W., Ida B. and Oscar O. In 1875 William J. Newhard married Miss Eliza Crum, of Mahoning County.

On coming to Wells County in 1859 William J. Newhard located in Union Township and bought a tract of land which was absolutely uncleared with the exception of ten acres. The first improvement was a small cabin, and that structure stood for many years, being cherished because of its early associations. In course of time he acquired a farm of over 200 acres. When Uniondale was platted in 1883 he was the first to locate in the village and engage in business as a grain buyer. He built his home in Uniondale in 1884, leaving two of his sons in charge of the farm. He was also associated with Henry W. Lipkey in the general merchandise business, which was the first general store in Uniondale. The grain business grew and flourished, and largely through the enterprise of the Newhards and their associates Uniondale became one of the chief centers for the grain market in Wells County. A post office was established at Uniondale in March, 1886, largely through the influence of William J. Newhard, and he became deputy to Henry W. Lipkey, who was appointed the first postmaster. William J. Newhard was also elected justice of the peace of Union Township in 1877, and filled that office four years.

William F. Newhard, who was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, was brought to Wells County in childhood, grew up on his father's farm, and contented himself with the advantages of the common schools. In 1884 he became associated with his father in the grain business at Uniondale, but in March, 1890, he located on his present farm of forty-eight acres in Rock Creek Township, and this has since been his home and the principal center of his activities. He has good land, improved with good buildings, and the farm means all the more to him because he personally cleared the land, which was formerly in the dense woods. Mr. Newhard is an active member of the democratic party.

On December 2, 1883, he married Miss Emma Celestia Young, daughter of Adam and Mary A. (Strauss) Young, of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Newhard's brothers and sisters are Isabel, Monroe, John A., Amelia and Mary A., the last three being deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Newhard's family comprises eight children. Charles C., the oldest, has twice married, his first wife being Maud Elberson and

his second Lena Mooney. Bessie L. is the wife of Charles Schoeff. Orie D. married Elsie Fuhrman. Minnie F. is the wife of C. M. Underhill. Clyde C. married Tessie Hoffacker. Naomi married Gilbert Jarrett. The two younger children, still single, are Cletus Ray and Valeria.

WILLIAM A. ECKHART. Noteworthy among the active and self-reliant farmers of Wells County is William A. Eckhart, who is pleasantly located in Liberty Township, where he has been engaged in his useful calling for many years. He was born November 7, 1851, in Hocking County, Ohio, which was also the birthplace of his parents, Grafton D. and Priscilla (Mathias) Eckhart. His grandfather, Anthony Eckhart, was born in the same county, of German ancestry, and as a young man served in the War of 1812.

Born, reared, and married in Hocking County, Ohio, Grafton D. Eckhart remained there until 1880, when he came with his wife to Wells County, Indiana, locating near Liberty Center, where both spent their remaining years. He was a true and loyal citizen, and during the Mexican war served as a soldier. They had several children, of whom the following named are living: William A., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; Margaret, wife of Patrick Curran, of Liberty Township; Ellen, wife of Albert J. Johnson, who lives at Linn Grove, Adams County; and Jacob Eckhart, of Liberty Township.

William A. Eckhart grew to man's estate on the home farm in Hocking County, Ohio, and under his father's judicious training acquired a practical knowledge of farming. Coming to Wells County, Indiana, in the very early part of 1876, he soon married, and immediately settled on the property where he has since lived. The eighty acres of land that he bought was still in its pristine wilderness, but being industrious and energetic, he succeeded well in his task of clearing a homestead from the wilderness, his estate, with its substantial improvements, giving ample evidence to the passer-by of his thrift and skill as a general farmer and stock-raiser.

Mr. Eckhart married, April 22, 1876, Clara Fry. She was born in Lockville, Ohio, and as a girl came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Fry, to Wells County, where she has since lived. Nine children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart, namely: Grafton A.; Edna, wife of Dal Glass; Josie M., wife of Alva Jones; Augusta, living at home; Frank, of Akron, Ohio; Mary J.; Augustus; Judson; and William O. In politics, Mr. Eckhart affiliates with the democratic party. As a successful agriculturist, a trustworthy citizen, and a man of strict integrity, he has the respect and esteem of his neighbors and friends.

D. C. HUFFMAN, M. D. A thoroughly trained, resourceful and skillful physician and surgeon, Doctor Huffman has practiced his profession in Wells County for many years and is now located at Poneto.

Born in Clark County, Ohio, October 29, 1855, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Tennant) Huffman, the former a native of Clark County, Ohio, and the latter of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The grandfather, Jacob Huffman, was one of the pioneers who cleared away the wilderness of Clark County, Ohio.

Doctor Huffman was well educated during his youth and entered practice after a thorough schooling in medical institutions of learning. In 1885 he came to Wells County, first locating at Mount Zion, where he practiced seven years, and after that was in practice at Craigsville from 1892 until 1910. For the past seven years he has enjoyed a large practice and clientage at Poneto. He is a member of the Wells County

W. A. Hoffman M.D.

Medical Society and has done all he could to advance the standards of the medical profession.

In Clark County, Ohio, Doctor Huffman married Miss Annie Landaker. They have three children. The oldest, Werden, is a graduate of the State University of Indiana, was for several years a science teacher in the Hartford City schools and is now in the chemical department of the General Motor Works at Detroit, Michigan. The second child, Pansy, is a graduate of the Craigsville High School and is now the wife of W. P. Kelander, who is connected with the Hupp Motor Works at Detroit. Gideon Huffman, the youngest child, is a graduate pharmacist and is now manager of the Rose City Pharmacy at Newcastle, Indiana. Doctor Huffman is a democrat in politics.

John R. Winters. One of the best known and highly regarded citizens of Wells County is John R. Winters, who at different times has been interested in business affairs at Bluffton, but is now absorbed in the management of a fine farm in Harrison Township, adjoining the corporation limits of Bluffton on the south, embracing 185 acres.

His birth occurred in the City of Bluffton August 9, 1858, and he represents a well known pioneer name. His parents were William R. and Sarah (Evans) Winters. William R. Winters was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, near Wintersville, April 3, 1817, his parents having moved from Ohio to Pennsylvania early in the last century. Sarah Evans, mother of John R. Winters, was born in Miami County, Ohio, April 12, 1827, a daughter of Thomas and Mrs. (Hughes) Evans. Her parents were both born and reared in London, England, and on coming to the United States landed in Philadelphia and later moved to Ohio, when that state was one vast wilderness.

William R. Winters made his pioneer advent to the Town of Bluffton in the spring of 1841. In early life he had learned the trade of plasterer but on coming to Bluffton he established a nursery where the Fairview Cemetery now is. It is said that he made the start of his nursery business from seeds which he carried with him in a knapsack, and afterwards set out a big orchard. Later he and B. F. Wiley were engaged in the grocery business at Bluffton. They sold their store during the war. Along about that time he bought the old Winters farm, where his son John R. now lives, and in August, 1865, he occupied that place and spent the rest of his days there. He was quite well to do, had excellent business judgment and everything he undertook seemed to prosper. At different times he had owned large tracts of land. For one year he pursued the study of medicine but abandoned the idea of a professional career. He was born and reared a Presbyterian, and assisted in building the old Presbyterian Church at Bluffton. Politically he was a stanch republican and at one time was a trustee of Harrison Township and also served as a member of the Board of Review. He and his wife were married in Lancaster Township of Wells County, and they became the parents of ten children, four of whom lived to maturity. The mother, who was a very liberal supporter of the Presbyterian Church, died June 12, 1913. The living children are: John R.; Rena J.; Nora; and Cora L.

John R. Winters was about six years of age when his parents moved out to the farm, but he secured his education in the public schools of Bluffton and left school to take up farming. Later for eight years he was a partner in the Beehive Store of Bluffton, and since leaving commercial affairs has given his best efforts to the management of his fine farm.

In November, 1904, Mr. Winters married Miss May Clover. She was born in Pennsylvania and was educated at Geneva, Pennsylvania. Her

father R. B. Clover was a prominent figure in the Clover Leaf Railway Company for many years. Mrs. Winters is very active in the Presbyterian Church, being a deaconess, and took much part in local social affairs. Mr. Winters is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and has always done what he could to support and upbuild the strength of the republican party in this county, having served as committeeman from his precinct for many years and as a delegate to State and Congressional conventions. Mr. Winters was one of the original members of the Bluffton Commercial Club. He is also affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Winters has gained an enviable reputation in business circles of Wells County and is generally credited with being that type of man whose spoken word is as good as a bond.

Charles E. Harvey, Sr. There are many industries and occupations that are of great importance to the human race, but none are so vital as those included under the name of general farming. The time has come when the farmer in civilized lands must feed the world and many of the most efficient farmers of Wells County are wide awake to their opportunities and responsibilities. A well known example is found in Charles E. Harvey, who belongs to one of the solid old families of the county and is the owner of valuable land in Lancaster Township.

Charles E. Harvey was born in Wells County, Indiana, November 5, 1871. His parents were Jacob R. and Elizabeth (Miller) Harvey, both natives of Indiana, the latter being the first white child born in Wells County, where her parents were early pioneers. The mother of Mr. Harvey died November 10, 1898. Her marriage to Jacob R. Harvey took place in 1854, and they had five children, namely: Henry McClelland, William S., Jacob E., John R. and Charles E. The father died April 26, 1904. He was one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Lancaster Township and owned the old Harvey homestead, which he had purchased from the other heirs and lived on the same for seventy-two years.

Charles E. Harvey grew to manhood on the old homestead and obtained his education in the district schools. He took possession of his present farm in Lancaster Township in April, 1896. It was already improved with substantial buildings but Mr. Harvey has made many additional improvements, such as a progressive farmer always takes interest in, and the property has yearly increased in value. He carries on the usual farm activities with the knowledge brought by experience and has 107 acres of finely cultivated land. He makes a specialty of breeding Durham cattle and one of the interesting exhibits of his farm is his large herd of these beautiful animals.

Mr. Harvey was married October 6, 1894, to Miss Arrilla Hege, who is a daughter of Amos and Mary Hege, old residents of Wells County. They have one son, Harry Wells, born October 16, 1895, who has been well educated and is his father's right hand man.

In his political views Mr. Harvey has always been a republican and has worked unselfishly for his party's success, never being willing to accept any political honors for himself. He is a hearty advocate for good roads and lends his influence in support of worthy enterprises that he recognizes will be helpful for this section. He and family are church-going people and for many years he has been a member of the Knights of Pythias, belonging to Lodge No. 92 at Bluffton, Indiana.

Charles Hoffacker. While Rock Creek Township certainly offers many examples of the natural fertility of the soil, there is a large amount

of credit due to those who have so well developed its possibilities and now own these productive farms, and one of these is Charles Hoffacker, a well known and highly respected resident of this part of Wells County.

Charles Hoffacker was born in Carroll County, Maryland, January 28, 1874. His parents are Elijah F. and Joanna (Hare) Hoffacker, who were also born there and still are living on the old homestead. Of their children, Charles is the eldest, the others being: Mary, who is the wife of John Fowble; William F., who married Ada Raver; Carrie, who is the wife of William Boyer; and Cora, Elmer and John.

After completing the usual period of school attendance in Carroll County, Charles Hoffacker assisted his father on the home place as long as he was needed and then started out for himself. He came to Wells County, Indiana, and when he settled on his present farm he immediately began making improvements. The land had been cleared but little attempt at improving had been made, and the substantial farm buildings now standing were all put up by Mr. Hoffacker. He has 135 acres and makes the entire farm give a good account of itself, his careful methods making every acre productive. He carries on a general farming line and grows grain, potatoes and fruit, and also raises some excellent cattle and stock.

Mr. Hoffacker married Miss Winnie Eichhorn, who is a daughter of Philip and Ellen Eichhorn, farming people of Rock Creek Township. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffacker are members of the Lutheran Church. They have a wide circle of friends and find pleasure in often entertaining them in their hospitable home. Mr. Hoffacker votes with the democratic party.

Aaron L. Musselman is perhaps best known over Wells County for his successful work as an educator and only recently he gave up the work of the schoolroom to begin his banking career as cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Poneto. He came into this bank on July 9, 1917, and besides his official position is also one of its stockholders. The other officers are J. W. Cook, president, and W. J. Popejoy, vice president. Mr. Musselman has the active executive details of the institution and his personal popularity has meant much to its continued prosperity.

Mr. Musselman has spent most of his life in Wells County but was born at Noblesville, Indiana, November 18, 1884, a son of D. H. and Mary J. (Kelly) Musselman. His parents removed to Wells County in 1895, and he grew up on a farm and acquired most of his higher education through his own earnings and efforts. He attended high school at Liberty Center, Indiana, and also attended institutions at Marion, Huntington and Indianapolis, taking commercial work in the latter two cities. He taught for a time in a district school, in Liberty Township, was principal of the Poneto graded schools five years, and came to enjoy a high standing and popularity in the ranks of local educators.

In 1910 Mr. Musselman married Miss Edna McCleery, who was born in Wells County, daughter of William McCleery. They have three young children, Dayton, Ruby and Dorothy. Mr. Musselman is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and is present vice chancellor. In matters of politics he casts his vote as a democrat.

John W. Clowser has been numbered among the progressive men of Lancaster Township for the past thirty years, conducts a well appointed farm near Craigville, and under all the changing conditions of a farmer's life, in bad seasons and good, and in eras of low prices and high, has so managed his affairs as to reach a position of independence, which he now enjoys.

Mr. Clowser was born in Wells County September 10, 1863, a son of

John and Sarah (Schoch) Clowser, who were of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. John Clowser was reared and educated in Wells County and at the beginning of his career took up farming. He located on his present place of eighty acres in 1887, and has since busied himself with general crops and stock raising. He is a democrat in politics.

In April, 1887, he married Ida Ritchey, daughter of Adam and Amanda Ritchey, who were Pennsylvanians. Mrs. Clowser's brothers and sisters are: Annie, wife of Edward Dailey; Mack, who married S. Kleinknight; John; and Alice, who married Kurt Shady.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Clowser are: Adelia, who married Arley Brezendine; Loyd, who married Velma Bryan; Fay and May, twins, the former the wife of George Harris and the latter of Lantz Wasson; Merle, unmarried; Anise, wife of Clarence Fosnaugh; and Marie, wife of Reuben Wynn.

Fred Biberstine. Whether in war or in peace fortunate is the man who owns a good farm in Wells County and possesses the ability and energy to cultivate it and handle its resources to the best advantage. Among the men who have enacted this successful role is Mr. Fred Biberstine of Harrison Township.

The Biberstine farm of 119½ acres is a splendid business of itself, and Mr. Biberstine is an agriculturist who knows how to get the most out of it and at the same time conserve the fertility of the soil for future years. His home is in section 19 of Harrison Township, 5½ miles southeast of Bluffton, from which city he gets the daily mail over Rural Route No. 6.

Mr. Biberstine was born at Vera Cruz, Indiana, October 20, 1875, a son of Emanuel and Albertine (Bovine) Biberstine. His father was a native of Ohio and his mother was born in Wells County, Indiana, in 1850 and is now living at Vera Cruz. The father died in May, 1911. He was quite active and influential in democratic politics and a man of sturdy industry who provided well for his large family of children. There were nine of them and seven are still living.

Fred Biberstine lived at Vera Cruz until 1882 when his parents moved to a farm in Harrison Township, and in that vicinity he attended the district schools. At the age of twenty-one he began working for himself and later married Miss Mary Bart. Mrs. Biberstine was reared in Allen County, Indiana. After their marriage they lived for a time in Vera Cruz, then on a farm, and about 1902 came to their present place of residence. Mr. and Mrs. Biberstine have two children: Viola, a graduate of the common schools and of the Bluffton High School; and Andrew, who has completed the work of the common schools and is now in the second year of the Bluffton High School. All the family are active members of the Six Mile Christian Church. Mr. Biberstine is a democrat and is affiliated with the Bluffton Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose.

William Smeltzer. Among the prosperous farmers of Rock Creek Township, Wells County, may be found many natives of Pennsylvania, which, in itself, is a surety of good citizenship and usually of good farming. One of these is William Smeltzer, whose well improved farm shows that he has had farm experience and that he takes a home-owner's pride in his property.

William Smeltzer was born not many miles from Harrisburg, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, January 23, 1872. His parents were David and Margaret Smeltzer. His mother died in 1874, when he was two years old, and her burial was in the cemetery at Union Deposit,

Dauphin County. His father was married three times. His second marriage was to Amanda Page and his third marriage was to Sarah Wirt. His children were: William, Robert, Minnie, Samuel, John, Anne, Harry, Margaret, Charles, Sadie, Roy and Ruth.

William Smeltzer obtained his education in the public schools of his native state. In 1890 he came to Indiana and in 1898 he settled on his present farm which contains eighty acres. Mr. Smeltzer found his land needing ditching and he has put down considerable tile and in other ways has done a large amount of improving. He has erected substantial and comfortable farm buildings, makes use of modern machinery and follows the modern methods that the intelligent and wide awake farmer of today adopts. He raises the usual products of this section and raises enough stock for his own use. He is an industrious, hard working man, with very sensible ideas on all subjects and has made a profitable feature of his work the breeding of Shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Smeltzer was married March 27, 1895, to Miss Laura Ellingham, who is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Braner) Ellingham, and they have three children, two daughters and one son, Edna, Lola and Earl. The eldest daughter is the wife of Calvin McAfee, a son of Peter McAfee, a well known resident of Rock Creek Township.

Charles T. Klingel. It was only after forty years of thorough going activity as a farmer and stock man and participation in all those affairs which were part of his community life that Charles T. Klingel retired from the more active cares of business and is now living in Liberty Center, with all the comforts that his worthy and well spent years have so fully justified.

Mr. Klingel belongs to an old time family of Northeastern Indiana. He was born on a farm a mile north and three-quarters of a mile west of Liberty Center September 13, 1854, a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Jett) Klingel. His father, Jonathan Klingel, was long a prominent citizen of Wells County. He was born in Stark County, Ohio, September 24, 1816, son of George and Jane (Allman) Klingel, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Stark County. He spent his early life on a farm and had for his education only such advantages as were supplied by the early subscription schools. In 1850 he came to Indiana, settling in Huntington County, where on October 20, 1850, he married Miss Elizabeth Jett. She was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, May 17, 1835, daughter of Daniel and Matilda (Hanson) Jett, and she came to Indiana when about fifteen years of age. After three years in Huntington County Jonathan Klingel removed to Wells County and located on a farm in Liberty Township. Here he developed 160 acres and was prospered until the end of his days. He had a varied experience in politics, beginning to vote as a whig, afterward joining the republican party and ending up as a democrat. His wife was an active member of the Baptist Church. They had three children: Jane J., wife of A. J. Johnson; Charles T.; and Rosa Bell, wife of Roy Anderson, of Bluffton.

Charles T. Klingel grew up on the old homestead in Liberty Township, attended the district schools, and in November, 1877, at the age of twenty-three, married Miss Ann Wyatt, a native of Huntington County, Indiana. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Klingel located on a farm and began that industrious career which in subsequent years has made them independent, prosperous and highly esteemed people of the county. Mr. Klingel cultivated 100 acres of land for many years, and in 1914 he turned over its management to younger men and moved to Liberty Center, where he now enjoys the comforts of one of the most modern homes of the village.

He and his wife have three living children. Jennie is the widow of Johnson Ware and lives at home. Minnie is the wife of Bert Hogan, a traveling salesman. Mollie married Cleveland Luce and they live at Fort Benton, Montana. The family are members of the Baptist Church, and Mr. Klingel has always supported the democratic ticket in politics.

B. F. Miller. Although a comparatively new-comer in the farming community of Wells County, B. F. Miller, of Liberty Township, is a man of keen foresight and good business capacity, and in the management of his farm shows excellent judgment, each season adding materially to the improvements previously inaugurated. A son of John A. and Sarah (Martin) Miller, he was born in Harrison Township, Wells County, April 22, 1870. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Miller, came from Ohio to Indiana in 1839, bringing with him his wife and children. Locating in Wells County, he entered from the Government 640 acres of land lying southeast of Bluffton, and began the improvement of a homestead, living there until, while trying to arrest a horse thief, he was shot, and died six hours later from the wound inflicted.

John A. Miller was born in Darke County, Ohio, August 15, 1836, and at the age of three years was brought by his parents to Wells County, Indiana. Following in the footsteps of his ancestors, he became a farmer. Purchasing 160 acres of land in Harrison Township, he carried on general farming with good results, and also did a remunerative business in buying and shipping cattle. He lived to a ripe old age, passing away, on his home farm, January 23, 1917. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Martin, was born in Adams County, Indiana, August 25, 1842, and died in Harrison Township, Wells County, February 28, 1915. Of the eight children born of their union, six are living, as follows: B. F., of this sketch; Robert H.; John M., a farmer in Harrison Township; Josephus, of the same township; Rufus, a resident of Jewel County, Kansas; and Harry, a commercial salesman, living in Illinois.

B. F. Miller was educated in the rural schools, and on the home farm, where he lived until attaining his majority, acquired valuable experience in the science of agriculture. For seven years after his marriage he was employed at the rolling mills in Muncie, Indiana, and later worked at Hartford City, Indiana, for eighteen months. Turning his attention then to agricultural pursuits, Mr. Miller moved on to a farm in Jay County, Indiana, where he remained for some time. On April 30, 1917, he came with his family to Liberty Township, buying fifty acres, where he is now carrying on farming and stock growing with excellent results.

Mr. Miller married, June 16, 1900, Miss Ada Cronin, a native of Adams County, Indiana. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, namely: John; Annie; Georgia, deceased; Robert; Harry; Willie and Luther, and one died in infancy. Politically Mr. Miller is a firm advocate of the principles of the republican party.

Ulysses Hunnicutt. A man of good business capacity, industrious and enterprising, Ulysses Hunnicutt is numbered among the prosperous agriculturists of Wells County. He was born May 25, 1862, in Jackson Township, Wells County, of English ancestry, his paternal grandfather having emigrated from England to the United States, settling in Indiana.

Mr. Hunnicutt's father, Chapell Hunnicutt, married when young, and settled on a farm near Hickory Grove, Jackson Township, where he obtained a good start in life. Selling at an advantage, he bought land in Chester Township, not far from Mount Zion, and there continued his agricultural work for a while. Subsequently disposing of that farm,

he bought a tract of land in Liberty Township, Wells County, and on the farm that he improved spent the remainder of his days. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Robberts, fourteen children were born, five of whom are now, in 1917, living.

A lifelong resident of Wells County, Ulysses Hunnicutt acquired his early knowledge of books in the district schools, and on the home farm gained an insight into the various branches of agriculture and a practical experience that has since been of much value to him. When ready to begin the battle of life on his own account, Mr. Hunnicutt purchased forty acres of land in Liberty Township, and immediately began its improvement. His labors have always proved remunerative, his land being in an excellent state of cultivation, the buildings in good repair, and the farm comfortably stocked. Mr. Hunnicutt has other interests aside from farming, carrying on quite an extensive business as a mover of houses and other buildings, a work for the purpose of which he has a complete outfit. In 1918 he sold his farm and moved to Bluffton.

Mr. Hunnicutt married, in 1884, Delila Freel, who was born in Huntington, Indiana, and as a child of six years came with her parents to Wells County, where she has since lived. Eleven children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hunnicutt, nine of whom are living, namely: Delcie, wife of George Jackson, of Petroleum, Indiana; Mary, wife of Bert Davenport; Nellie, wife of Frank Howard; Frank; Edson, who married Ruth Allen, of Berne, Indiana; Earl; Hugh, a graduate of the Bluffton High School; Ethel; and Ralph. One died in infancy and the other deceased child was Fredy. Politically Mr. Hunnicutt is a consistent advocate of the principles of the republican party. Fraternally he is a member of Poneto Lodge No. 752, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Lewis E. Arnold. Some of the finest stock in Wells County are bred and raised on the Highway Stock Farm of Lewis E. Arnold, located 6½ miles south of Bluffton.

Mr. Arnold's specialty is registered Jersey cattle. At the present writing he has a herd of about twenty-two headed by the noted Pogis Emperor William No. 148,707. This herd has been prize winners for a number of years. Mr. Arnold exhibited them at the Bluffton Street Fair in 1915 and 1916 and in 1915 his exhibits won five firsts and two seconds, and in 1916 six firsts and four seconds, besides two grand champions were among the trophies. In 1917 won six firsts, four seconds, two grand champions and first in herd. Besides these prize cattle Mr. Arnold handles thoroughbred Duroc hogs and much other high class livestock. The Highway Stock Farm contains 160 acres.

Mr. Arnold is a native of Adams County, Indiana, where he was born September 23, 1860, a son of August and Augusta (Jahn) Arnold. His parents were both natives of Saxony, Germany. August Arnold was a tailor by trade and in 1850 brought his family to the United States, going from New York City to Wayne County, Ohio, and six months later coming to Wells County, Indiana, and settling at Vera Cruz, where he worked at his trade. In 1856 he bought forty acres of heavily timbered land in Kirkland Township of Adams County. The only improvement on the land was a log cabin with a clapboard roof and puncheon floor. This was the humble and somewhat straitened home of the Arnold family until a hewed log house could be built. August Arnold died there in February, 1865, at the age of forty-five. His widow afterwards married Jacob Mosiman, and died in 1899. Five of the father's children are still living: Frank, a farmer in Adams County; Lena, widow

of Christ Ashbander; William C. of Liberty Center; Sarah, wife of Robert Case of Decatur, Indiana; and Lewis E.

Lewis E. Arnold grew up on his father's farm in Adams County, but at the age of nine years was brought to Wells County and after getting his education in the common schools he went to work as a farm hand by the month. He also learned the carpenter's trade and followed it as a means of livelihood for a number of years.

In 1889 he married Miss Sarah E. Warner, who died November 5, 1893, without children. In March 23, 1895, he married Lydia Kirkwood. Mrs. Arnold was born in Nottingham Township of Wells County, October 1, 1871, a daughter of George and Mary (Warner) Kirkwood and a granddaughter of William Kirkwood, Sr., a notable pioneer of this section of Indiana concerning whom more information will be found in other paragraphs. Mrs. Arnold was reared in Nottingham Township and attended the public schools at Petroleum.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Arnold located at Ruth in Wells County, and he bought a store which he successfully conducted for ten years. He then traded this mercantile enterprise for a farm in Jennings County, Indiana, and lived on it nine years. Trading his farm for a store at Balbec, he was for a year both a merchant and a farmer and then sold his store for a farm near Portland. Later he acquired his present property, the Highway Stock Farm. In March, 1918, he moved to his present home, 1½ miles west of Bluffton, known as the Jonas Bender farm, which he purchased in October, 1917.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have one son, George M., who was born January 16, 1896. He attended the common schools, the Scipio, Indiana, High School, and graduated from the Petroleum High School. He is now located at Washington Court House, pursuing his business as a draftsman. He is affiliated with Petroleum Lodge No. 721, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a republican in politics.

Lewis E. Arnold and wife are both active members of the Rebekahs, in which she is past noble grand and is also a member of the Grand Lodge. His Odd Fellow membership is with Petroleum Lodge No. 721 and he is a member of the Encampment at Bluffton.

William Kirkwood, grandfather of Mrs. L. E. Arnold, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1820, the youngest son of William and Sophia (Goshard) Kirkwood, and his grandfather was also named William. His father was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and was brought to America at the age of three years, settling in Pennsylvania where he grew up and married. He lived on a farm in Pennsylvania until his death in 1823. His widow, Sophia, moved to Ross County, Ohio, with her family in 1834 and five years later settled in Fairfield County, where she died at the advanced age of ninety years.

Mr. William Kirkwood's early circumstances bordered on poverty and were a stimulus to active effort and enterprise at an early age. At the age of sixteen he began learning the tanner's trade in Ross County and worked in that line as a journeyman in Fairfield County four years. In 1843 he married Miss Susannah Gehrett, daughter of Henry and Susanna Gehrett, who came from Berks County, Pennsylvania. The children of their marriage were Henry, George, Samuel, Mary Ann, Sophia, John E., William, Susan and Cerilda.

About 1843 William Kirkwood engaged in business for himself in Fairfield County and was associated with his brother-in-law about seven years. In the fall of 1850 he brought his family to Wells County, locating in Nottingham Township, where he bought eighty acres of timbered land in section 14. While clearing up and developing his farm he continued work at his trade for about seven years. In the meantime

he bought other tracts of wild land, and in the course of years had a large property and an ample competence for himself and family. He was one of the prominent democrats of the early days, and in 1852 was elected a county commissioner and later served two terms as township trustee. In 1874 he was again elected county commissioner and whether in private or in public life he exemplified those virtues which at all times are the essentials of good citizenship.

WILLIAM OGLE. Among the men who have devoted their lives to the vocation of farming and have found health, prosperity and happiness therein, one of the best known in Wells County is William Ogle. Mr. Ogle has not lived his entire life in this county, for his operations have taken him over a wide range of territory, but he has spent enough of his career here to be familiar with its advancement and development and to have taken an active part in those things which have brought about progress and satisfying conditions in the agricultural class.

Mr. Ogle was born in Ohio, November 2, 1841, and is a son of Erastus and Charlotte (O'Neal) Ogle. His father, a native of Virginia, turned his face toward the West in young manhood, going to Ohio, where he married a native of that state. Not satisfied with conditions as he found them there, Erastus Ogle brought his family to Indiana in 1854, and settled in Wayne County and died in Rush County, where he had passed the closing years of his life on a farm. His widow subsequently moved to Henry County, where she passed away. Mr. Ogle was a democrat in politics, although not an active politician nor an office seeker. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, of whom five are living at this time: William, of this note; John H., who resides in Delaware County, Indiana; Margaret and Elizabeth, both residents of this state; and Martin.

William Ogle was thirteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Indiana, and in the public schools of Rush County completed the education that he had commenced in his native state. He was married in Fayette County, to Savannah C. Kirkwood, and after marriage continued to reside in Indiana for three years, still carrying on agricultural pursuits. Mr. Ogle then recognized an opportunity which presented itself in Piatt County, Illinois, and, grasping it, went to that state, where during the next twenty years he accumulated a handsome property. However, he eventually returned to Indiana and located in Wells County, first on a property in Nottingham Township and finally on his present farm, located on Poneto Rural Route No. 1, eleven miles southwest of Bluffton, in Chester Township. He has developed a good property, his home is well equipped with all the latest improvements and conveniences, and because of his excellent business management in former years is now enabled to enjoy all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. His eighty acres all are under a high state of cultivation and produce excellent crops. In politics Mr. Ogle is a democrat, but has taken no active part. He is what the public terms a self-made man, having made all that he has by hard work and careful management, being a man of exceptionally good judgment and close observation.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ogle there have been born eight sons, as follows: James K., Walter E., Homer E. and Charles M., who reside at home and assist their father in his agricultural work; and Harry, Oscar, William F. and Thermon I., deceased.

DORPHIS L. DRUM. An example of business enterprise that presages a very successful career is furnished by Dorphis L. Drum, one of the younger citizens of Wells County and representative of an old and hon-

ored family in Lancaster Township. Mr. Drum is only twenty-two years of age but is already engaged in independent business as proprietor of a general store at Curryville in Lancaster Township. He bought this store from his father's estate on August 16, 1917. Here he handles a full line of goods, consisting of groceries, dry goods, hardware, boots and shoes, and automobile supplies. Mr. Drum is an aggressive business getter. He does not wait altogether for trade to come to him, but goes out after it. He has an automobile truck fitted up especially for his business and daily he loads it up with desirable merchandise and makes the rounds of the country district, buying and selling and trading. He has thus established himself as a commission and produce merchant and is building up a business which is not only profitable in itself but is giving him experience and an acquaintance which will avail him much in the future.

Mr. Drum was born at Curryville in Wells County March 27, 1895. He is a son of P. H. and Flora (Brentlinger) Drum. His paternal grandparents were John P. and Frances (Hartman) Drum, from Perry County, Ohio, and were among the pioneers of Curryville, where the grandfather located on eighty acres of wild land and in course of time had it cleared up and improved as a good farm. He died in 1893.

P. H. Drum was born July 24, 1865, in Wells County. His wife was born December 24, 1870, in Ohio, and was brought to Indiana at the age of eleven years by her parents. P. H. Drum and wife had five children, Dorphis L., Effie, Noble, Opal and Edna.

James D. Babcock. The desirable awards attainable by a life of industry and continued effort are illustrated in the career of James D. Babcock, now one of the well-to-do agriculturists of Nottingham Township, Wells County. Few men have been in greater degree the architects of their own fortunes. His life was commenced under circumstances of poverty and he was forced to become a wage earner at a time when he should have been attaining an education and enjoying the pastimes of youth, yet in spite of these handicaps he has made a position for himself among the men of means of his locality, and at the same time has held his fellow-citizens' respect and confidence.

James D. Babcock was born at Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana, April 24, 1848, and is a son of Doctor Peleg and Malinda (McCart) Babcock, who came to Indiana after their marriage and first settled near Battle Ground, in Tippecanoe County, subsequently removing to Delphi. Dr. Peleg Babcock, who was a native of New York, was a graduate in medicine and followed his profession in Indiana in the country districts. No doubt his practice was not large and what there was profited him little, for the early settlers were not as a rule well supplied with money and the pioneer physician's work was largely a labor of love. At any rate, in spite of his professional and agricultural work, Doctor Babcock died a poor man, and when James D. Babcock was eight years of age he was forced to start to make his own way in the world. Thus it was that his education was neglected, his attendance at school consisting of one term after he was eighteen years old. However, after his marriage, he learned much from his wife, and by reading, experience and observation has become a well-informed man on many subjects. During the Civil war Mr. Babcock went to St. Joseph, Missouri, but subsequently returned to Indiana, where he was married to Viola Cox on December 6, 1871. At that time he started life as a farmer, and the years that followed were full of unceasing labor and hard work. As he was compelled to start without capital of any kind save his ambition and willingness to work, he became a renter of land, and it was not until he was forty-five

years of age that he was able to become a land owner. He then bought land in Jasper County, sold it and purchased another tract of 207 acres, and then came to Rock Creek Township, Wells County, and bought 220 acres which he sold in 1910. He cultivated this land until coming to Nottingham Township, where he bought 275 acres which consisted of three farms with three sets of buildings. This is one of the finely-cultivated properties of the township, and can boast of a good set of buildings, and improvements and equipments of the very latest kind. In addition to carrying on general farming, he engages in the stock business, buying cattle and hogs by the carload lot, and then feeding and shipping. In business circles he has an excellent reputation as a man of integrity, and as a citizen he has been a factor in the advancement of his community. While residing in Jasper County, Indiana, he filled the office of trustee of Marion Township very acceptably. Politically Mr. Babcock is a republican.

By his first wife, who died November 20, 1893, Mr. Babcock became the father of these children: Frank, of Nottingham Township; Elmer, in Hammond; Thomas; Homer; George, who died June 11, 1917; Mary, wife of Harley Lamson; Ruby, the wife of Robert Graham; Elizabeth, the wife of Roe Yeoman; and Anna M., the wife of Sam Scott, of Jasper County, Indiana. Mr. Babcock has sixteen grandchildren. March 15, 1911, he was united in marriage with Miss Eunice Adamson. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Curtis W. Clark, superintendent of the Bluffton Electric Light and Water Works of Bluffton. When a young man he took up electricity as a career and has acquired a thorough knowledge of the profession both from its technical and practical standpoint. He has long been connected with the operation of electrical industries in Indiana, both as a construction and operating official.

Mr. Clark was born in Gallia County, Ohio, October 26, 1878, a son of Samuel V. and Elizabeth (Dickey) Clark. His father was a farmer in Southern Ohio, and on the old homestead Curtis W. Clark spent his early years and acquired his education in the country schools. His early education was limited to attendance during winter terms, while in the summer he assisted his father. The summer before and after he was twenty-one years of age he was employed as a lineman on the Wellston & Jackson Belt Railroad. Mr. Clark took up the technical study of electricity with the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and graduated in his course and received a certificate of proficiency in 1901. He has always been interested in the subject, possesses much natural ability, and has two brothers who are electricians.

After leaving the Belt Railway Mr. Clark was in the employ of the Chapman Coal Company as electrician two years, and then came to Indiana, locating at Eaton, where he was electrical engineer with the Muncie, Hartford City & Fort Wayne Traction Company four years.

His home has been at Bluffton since July, 1906. He was superintendent and electrical engineer with the M. B. & E. Traction Company until January 1, 1914, and then entered the service of the city as superintendent of the Electric Light & Water Company. Largely to Mr. Clark is due the credit for bringing this plant to a state of high efficiency, and he has entire charge of all operating details. There is a thorough system of accounting by which it is possible to know at any time whether the system is earning or losing money, and Mr. Clark has demonstrated his value to the city in many ways.

In August, 1901, he married Miss Bessie Smith, of Gallipolis, Ohio. Mrs. Clark was well educated in the public schools of Ohio. They have three children: Willard, born January 19, 1905; Mary, born in Janu-

ary, 1908; and Robert, born December 24, 1916. The two older children are both in the public schools of Bluffton. Mrs. Clark is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally he is identified with Bluffton Lodge No. 92 of the Knights of Pythias, and in politics is a democrat, though merely as a voter, having never had time to participate in partisan affairs.

Louis G. Lancaster. All through Wells County there are evidences that agriculture has been brought to a high state and in Chester Township in particular, are found as well developed farms as any in this part of Indiana. This indicates that there are practical and industrious farmers here and a fine example is found in Louis G. Lancaster, who is a member of an old Wells County family.

Louis G. Lancaster was born in Chester Township, Wells County, October 28, 1863, and is a son of Nathan and Mary (Starr) Lancaster. The father was born in Van Buren Township, Grant County, Indiana, October 25, 1836, and the mother in Wells County, Indiana, February 5, 1837. They were married in December, 1862, and the following children were born to them: Lewis G., Harvey B., Jennie L., wife of George A. Mason, John E., Matilda E. and an infant, all deceased, and Orley L. The Lancasters have long been prosperous and important people in Chester Township and owners of large tracts of valuable land. They are members of the Society of Friends.

Lewis G. Lancaster obtained his education in the public schools, and later put this training to practical account in the educational field. He was eighteen years old when he taught his first term of school and continued to teach for eight years, finding the work congenial and performing his duties so well that seemingly his life work lay in that direction. Mr. Lancaster, however, decided to become a farmer and for one year following his marriage resided on and operated the old Lancaster home place. He moved then to Montpelier and continued in business there until fall of 1889 when he moved on the farm that he has developed into a valuable property. Mr. Lancaster is an enterprising and well informed agriculturist and in carrying on his farm industries recognizes the value of first class farm machinery and the adoption of progressive scientific methods.

Mr. Lancaster was married July 3, 1887, to Sarah S. Williams, who is a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Bugh) Williams, natives of Ohio who were early settlers in Blackford County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster have had four children: Mary Pearl, and Grace, and two who died in infancy.

Well known all over the county, Mr. Lancaster had tangible proof of the high esteem in which he is held on his personal record, when his political party put forward his name for nomination for representative in the State Assembly, and in the primaries he ran far ahead of his party vote. In local matters he has always been active in promoting educational progress and in bringing about conditions of morality and neighborly peace and forbearance, induced thereby somewhat, perhaps, by the religious faith he professes, for he is a sincere member of the Society of Friends.

Austin Oliver has been a practical railroad man for nearly a quarter of a century, and as freight and ticket agent of the Lake Erie & Western at Bluffton has discharged his duties with complete satisfaction not only to the railway company but to all citizens who have dealings through him with the railroad.

Mr. Oliver was born in Hartford City, Indiana, July 28, 1874, a son of Jeremiah and Mary A. (Mills) Oliver. Both parents were born

near Greenville in Darke County, Ohio, and came when children with their respective parents to Indiana. Both the Mills and Oliver families located near Dundee. Hanson Oliver, the grandfather, conducted a cooper shop there, making barrels which were transported to market by ox teams to Marion, Indiana. The parents of Mary A. Mills were farmers near Dundee and spent the rest of their days there. Jeremiah Oliver tried to get into the Civil war but was rejected on account of physical disability. After his marriage he located in Hartford City, which was his home for a number of years. While there seven children were born, two of whom are still living, Helen, widow of J. C. Miller, of Bluffton, and Austin. The parents afterward bought ninety acres of land near Roll, but after two years sold that and came to Bluffton September 10, 1880. Jeremiah Oliver was for eighteen years connected with a stave factory at Bluffton either as foreman or engineer. For this company he went to Malden, Missouri, and set up a factory there, and after returning to Bluffton became manager of the Bluffton Artificial Ice Plant. While assisting in dismantling this plant he suffered exposure which brought on pneumonia and his death occurred December 5, 1898. He and his family were all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics he was a democrat, though his quiet, unassuming nature never allowed him to seek official honors. Outside of business he was usually found at home, and was devoted to his family. His widow died in Bluffton January 8, 1902. After they came to Bluffton one other child was born, Fairy Belle, who died in 1902.

Austin Oliver was six years of age when his parents came to Bluffton and here he grew up and acquired his education in the local schools. While in the seventh grade he abandoned his studies to go to work in the stave factory with his father, but in 1893 had his first experience in what has been his permanent career. For two years he was employed by the Clover Leaf Railway, but on March 11, 1894, entered the employ of the Lake Erie & Western as telegraph operator. He was appointed train dispatcher at Muncie and filled similar offices in other places. On June 7, 1898, he returned to Bluffton and was chief clerk of the railroad at this point until November 30, 1912, when he was given the responsibilities of freight and ticket agent.

October 24, 1898, Mr. Oliver married Eva Idessa Miller, who was born and reared near Muncie, Indiana, daughter of E. F. Miller. They have one son, Paul, born May 13, 1902. This son has completed the course in the common schools and is now a student in the Bluffton High School. The family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bluffton, and fraternally Mr. Oliver is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. In politics he casts his vote as a democrat. He has a comfortable and attractive home at 628 West South Street. During his many years as a railroad man and as a citizen Mr. Oliver has acquired a wealth of esteem and is one of the best known in this community.

John F. Hartle. A man of versatile talents, energetic, enterprising, and far-sighted, John F. Hartle, a prosperous merchant in Bluffton, Wells County, has been actively associated with the organization of numerous mercantile firms, and in the management of his multiplicity of affairs has accumulated a good property. He is a native of Wells County, his birth having occurred October 1, 1861, in Bluffton.

His father, Milton T. Hartle, was born, bred, and educated in Darke County, Ohio, having made his entrance into this world in 1838. Learning the trade of a brick mason, he followed it first in his native state.

filling numerous contracts. Coming to Wells County, Indiana, in 1860, he located in Bluffton, where as a contractor he erected various large buildings, including the Gardner, Ogden and Odd Fellows blocks; the Bliss Hotel; the Arnold Block; the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal Church edifices; the Curry and Deam residences, and many other buildings of note. Subsequently in addition to his work as a contractor, he established a grocery in the west end of the city, and meeting with good results in its management afterwards transferred his stock to the "green front" store, at the corner of Washington and Main streets, where he built up a thriving trade. Retiring from business, he moved to Muncie, Indiana, and was there a resident until his death, July 17, 1897. He was a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

The maiden name of the wife of Milton T. Hartle was Cynthia Tullis. She was born in Darke County, Ohio, and there lived until after her marriage. She survived her husband, dying, September 22, 1904, in Muncie, Indiana, aged sixty-three years. Eight children were born of their marriage, as follows: John F., of this sketch; Anna; Jennie B., deceased; Lizzie; Grant; Elmore, deceased; Calvin; and Nona.

Brought up and educated in Bluffton, John F. Hartle left school when young to work in his father's grocery, and when familiar with the business was admitted to partnership, continuing for seven years as junior member of the firm of M. T. Hartle & Son. Selling out his interests, Mr. Hartle was for ten years salesman for George F. McFarren. Going to Andrews, Indiana, Mr. Hartle purchased a stock of clothing, and was there engaged in business for about seven months. Disposing of that stock, he embarked in the shoe business with George D. Snyder, with whom he was associated for two years under the firm name of Snyder & Hartle. Dividing the stock, Mr. Hartle sold his share to George H. Amram, and then went to Plymouth, Indiana, where he bought out a general stock of dry goods and shoes. Closing out all of the dry goods, he converted the business into an exclusive shoe store, which he managed successfully for ten years.

Selling out his shoe store, Mr. Hartle purchased a 5 and 10 cent store at Owosso, Michigan, and conducted it for three years, returning then to Bluffton, Indiana.

Mr. Hartle married, November 25, 1883, Emma Kratner, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Hartle are members of the Baptist Church. Politically Mr. Hartle is a republican. Fraternally he belongs to Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; to Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons; to Bluffton Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters; to Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar; and to Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hartle are active members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

JOHN R. HARVEY. One of the old and prominent families of Lancaster Township, Wells County, bears the name of Harvey and a worthy representative of the same is found in John R. Harvey, who is the owner of the old homestead of 102 acres which has been in the family since 1831, one of the finest estates in this section of the county.

John R. Harvey was born on his present farm in 1867, and is the second youngest of five sons born to his parents who were Jacob R. and Elizabeth (Miller) Harvey. His father was also born in Indiana and through purchase from the other heirs, acquired the old Harvey homestead, on which he spent seventy-two years, his death occurring here April 22, 1906. He was one of the township's most respected citizens. In 1854 he was married to Elizabeth Miller, who died November 10,

1898. Her parents were pioneer settlers on the Wabash near the old Town of Murray, and she was the first white child born in the county. Their children were: Henry McClelland, William S., Jacob E., John R. and Charles E.

John R. Harvey remained at home and assisted his father and obtained his education in the country and the Bluffton schools. At the death of his father he inherited the old homestead and prizes very highly the old parchment certificate issued his grandfather by the government, which is numbered 951 and is dated September 2, 1831, and signed by Andrew Jackson, President of the United States. This is one of the family's most carefully preserved archives. Since coming into possession of the old farm Mr. Harvey has made improvements as he has found desirable and is credited with being one of the best farmers in Lancaster Township. He devotes considerable attention to breeding Shorthorn cattle and has been very successful in this industry.

Mr. Harvey was married March 18, 1889, to Miss Catherine Eversole, who is a daughter of Jacob and Susan (Miller) Eversole, who had other children, as follows: William H., who married Lucinda Freds; Ellen, married C. B. Bulger, and both are deceased; Jacob M.; Charles T., who married Anna Myers; Clarette, who is the wife of Dr. T. C. Robinson; Wilson S., who married Maggie Motz; Louise J., who is the wife of W. E. Stafford; Franklin P.; Jefferson; and Laura, who is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey have two children, a daughter and a son: Minnie, who is seventeen years old and a student in the high school at Bluffton; and Henry, who is eleven years old, is yet in the grade schools. Mr. Harvey and family attend the Christian Church at Murray and are well known there. In politics he votes with the republican party. He is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and attends the lodge of the same at Bluffton.

Herman F. Lesh. At this juncture in a volume devoted to the careers of representative citizens of Adams and Wells counties, Indiana, it is a pleasure to insert a brief history of Herman F. Lesh, who is loyal and public-spirited in civic life and who is possessed of initiative and a knack for hard work in any line of enterprise to which he applies himself. During the greater part of his active career thus far he has been engaged in teaching school, but since 1915 he has been the efficient incumbent of the office of clerk in the Wells Circuit Court.

Mr. Lesh was born on his father's farm, half a mile south of Rock Creek Center, in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, May 29, 1878. He is a son of Isaac and Samantha (Cover) Lesh, the former of whom died in September, 1914, and the latter of whom is still living, her home being on the old farm in Rock Creek Township. Isaac Lesh was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1832, and Mrs. Lesh is a native of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where her birth occurred on the 16th of March, 1839. They came to Wells County, Indiana, on horseback in the year 1848 and were married at Bluffton December 24, 1857. They immediately located on the farm on which Mrs. Lesh still lives and the same originally comprised forty acres and later fifty-six acres. Mr. and Mrs. Lesh were members of the German Reformed Church, St. Pauls, Rock Creek Township. He was a quiet, unassuming man, a good provider for his family, and charitable to those in need. Concerning the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lesh the following brief data are here incorporated: Lucy A. is deceased; Wilson C. is a progressive farmer in Rock Creek Township; Harry P. is a contractor in Bluffton; Clara A. is the wife of Amos J. Gearhart, of St. Mary's, Ohio; William L. resides in Uniondale, Indiana; Harriet S. is the wife

of S. J. Hantz, of Rock Creek Township; Herman F.; and Milo J., who is a farmer in Harrison Township, Wells County.

Herman F. Lesh was reared to maturity under the invigorating discipline of the old homestead farm. After completing the curriculum of the neighboring district schools, he was matriculated as a student in the Central Normal School, at Danville, Indiana, and he began his career as a teacher in the winter of 1898-99. He continued in pedagogical work until 1915. For six terms he taught in Rock Creek Township, for three terms in Harrison Township, one year in the department school at Bluffton and two years in the Poneto School. His work as an educator was thorough and exact and was ever characterized by a conscientious devotion to duty. In 1915, when Mr. Lesh was elected clerk of the Wells Circuit Court, he gave up teaching and he is now devoting all his time and energy to the various responsibilities connected with that important office. He is the owner of a finely improved farm of forty-three acres four miles south of Bluffton, on the Penville Pike.

June 15, 1905, Mr. Lesh married Miss Eva M. McFee, a daughter of Samuel and Mary A. McFee, of Bluffton. Mr. and Mrs. Lesh have two children: Mary Jane, born May 20, 1913; and Francis, born January 9, 1916. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in a fraternal way Mr. Lesh is a valued and appreciative member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Lesh is a member of the Rebekahs, in which she is past noble grand. In politics Mr. Lesh is a stalwart democrat.

Benjamin J. King. Representing one of the first families established in the wilderness of Liberty Township of Wells County, Benjamin J. King was himself born here in a time only partially removed from the pioneer era, and has employed the greater part of his three score and ten years with the occupations and interests of a farmer in his native township.

He is a son of the late G. H. King, who deserves more than passing mention in the record of Wells County because of his varied activities and his early settlement. Gabriel H. King was born in an interesting and richly historic section of North Carolina, Stokes County, May 3, 1822, son of Johnson and Margaret (Stanley) King. About 1830 when he was eight years of age his parents came westward and established homes in Delaware County, Indiana, securing land from the government. But the parents did not survive their removal to the West, and in the following year both of them died within a month. They left six children, Gabriel being the youngest.

In the fall of 1837, when he was fifteen years old, Gabriel King and his older brother Johnson came to Wells County, where Johnson King entered eighty acres of land in sections 21 and 22 of Liberty Township. The Kings were the first family in the township, and theirs was the third cabin erected west of Liberty Center. At first they had no habitation at all and their goods were unloaded from their wagons under an oak tree. Johnson King died in Wells County in 1843. Gabriel H. King on reaching manhood bought eighty acres of heavily timbered land in section 27 of Liberty Township, and he was industriously engaged in its clearing and cultivation until 1857. In that year he sold his farm and bought eighty acres of improved land in the same township, on which he conducted farming until 1865. That year on selling his farm he bought a tract of land upon which he erected a sawmill, and thereafter made both farming and lumbering his joint occupation until 1879. Gabriel H. King removed to Liberty Center in 1879, conducted a store

for a time, but in 1882 turned this business over to his youngest son and then erected the first flouring mill at Liberty Center. The mill was improved with a complete roller process in 1887, and for over thirty years its wheels have turned and it has produced a large share of the high grade products used for bread and feed in this part of the county. The mill is still in operation.

While busied with many private affairs, Gabriel King always responded to the cause for helpfulness in the community. He was prominent as a leader in the local democratic party and filled the office of township clerk seven years, magistrate four years, county commissioner three years, township trustee twelve years, besides other local offices. He was county commissioner of Wells County when the Court House was erected. He was a devout member of the Christian Church.

On February 25, 1841, Gabriel H. King married Miss Susan Mendenhall, daughter of Benjamin and Margery Mendenhall. She was born in Miami County, Ohio, and came to Wells County in 1839. Mr. and Mrs. King had twelve children, five of whom are still living, Benjamin J., Willard B., John H., Henry A. and Emily, wife of Adam Foust.

Benjamin J. King was born August 27, 1848, grew up on his father's farm in Liberty Township, and since leaving the local public schools has been industriously engaged with farming and also with milling. He still owns a good farm of eighty acres and has one of the good homes in that locality.

December 24, 1868, Mr. King married Jane McNatt, who was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, and came to Wells County in the fall of 1863. Of their five children three are still living: Anna, wife of Arthur Thomas; William, who married Rosa Bricker; and Ethel, wife of Albert Sills. The King family are members of the Baptist Church at Liberty Center and in politics Mr. King votes as a democrat.

A. P. Addington has been a resident of Wells County thirty-one years and has attained success completely through his individual ability and sturdy enterprise. Mr. Addington has a fine farm and is known all over Wells County for his work as a road builder and contractor. His farm is 2½ miles southwest of Bluffton.

Mr. Addington was born in Scott County, Virginia, September 7, 1857, a son of Henry E. and Elizabeth W. (Gulley) Addington. His parents were born, reared and married in Scott County and spent their lives there. The father died a number of years ago and the mother is still living. A. P. Addington grew up on a farm, attended the common schools of Virginia and at the age of twenty-one started out for himself to make a living as a farmer. On November 18, 1879, he married Miss Sarah E. Derting, who was born in the same county and state.

In 1886, still poor in purse, but with great anticipation for the future Mr. and Mrs. Addington came to Wells County, Indiana, and established their home a mile and a half west of where they now live in Liberty Township. Mr. Addington acquired 160 acres there, and continued to progress and prosper as a farmer on that place for sixteen years. In 1894 he bought his present farm of 120 acres in Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Addington have seven children: Perry, Carson, Nannie, Elizabeth, Homer, Belle and Dennis.

A number of years ago Mr. Addington acquired his first experience in building streets and gravel roads and his business in that connection has mounted steadily in importance and size of contracts. He built the improved highways of Spring and Wayne streets in Bluffton, and altogether has laid and constructed about forty miles of gravel roads in Wells County and adjoining counties. Mr. Addington is also one of the

stockholders of the Farmers Co-operative Elevator of Poneto, the manager of which is William Smith. Mr. Addington is an active democrat and has been prominent in local affairs in his township and county. He is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons, and is also a member of Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Bluffton.

Perry E. Gilbert. Uniondale is one of the young towns of the state of Indiana that has made progress within the last decade, and largely contributory to this has been the substantial interest shown by one of her prominent and representative men, Perry E. Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert's property investments are extensive in Wells County and important at Uniondale, where his official connection with some of the leading enterprises add greatly to their strength and to the standing of Uniondale as a business center.

Perry E. Gilbert was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, March 3, 1860, and is a son of Martin and Lydia (Houtz) Gilbert. His father was born in Ohio December 27, 1818, and died in Wells County, Indiana, June 26, 1883. His mother was born in Pennsylvania August 30, 1824, and died in Indiana, January 29, 1911. They were the parents of fourteen children and the family record is as follows: Emanuel B., born November 21, 1841, died December 25, 1902; Amanda J., born August 27, 1843; Christina, born July 11, 1845; Philip, born February 11, 1847, died September 26, 1916; Adeline, born November 15, 1849, died September 30, 1917; William, born July 6, 1851, died November 30, 1880; Elizabeth, born October 6, 1853, died March 4, 1917; Sarah, born September 26, 1855; Isaiah, born November 24, 1857, died March 26, 1905; Perry E.; Eliza E., born September 1, 1862; Louisa, born August 15, 1865; Martin, born August 27, 1869; and Lewis Erwin, born December 14, 1872, died December 25, 1888. The parents of the above family established their home in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, at a time when pioneer conditions prevailed. They endured the usual hardships incident to that period but survived them and lived to enjoy ease and comfort in their later years. They reared their large family carefully and through precept and example taught them the value of industry and thrift and brought them under the influence of the teachings of the Lutheran Church. They were people widely known and universally respected.

Perry E. Gilbert had the educational advantages provided by the district schools and gave his father assistance on the home farm of 120 acres until he reached manhood. In 1885 he settled on a farm of fifty acres and in 1889 purchased 104 acres, in 1895 adding an additional eighty acres and in 1911 bought sixty acres more and at present owns 294 acres in Wells County. He is one of the prosperous farmers and in addition does a very large business in the purchase and sale of stock, in which he has been extensively engaged for the past fifteen years.

On October 10, 1915, Mr. Gilbert came to Uniondale and has resided here ever since. In 1916 he erected the fine brick building on Main Street, which is known as the Gilbert Block, a business structure that would be creditable in a much larger place, and this is but one of the evidences of his business enterprise. This block at present is occupied by the Uniondale Harness Company and by a confectionery and a grocery store and the Ray L. Tutt store. Such property as this is not very likely to lack good tenants. Mr. Gilbert is vice president of the Uniondale State Bank and is also on the directing board of the Uniondale Lumber Company.

Mr. Gilbert was married January 25, 1885, to Miss Ellen Valentine, who is a daughter of John and Mary Valentine, well known people in Wells County whose other children were: George, who is deceased; Emma, who is the wife of George Masterson; and Elizabeth, who is the wife of John Miller, of Wells County. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert have four children, namely: Harry H., who lives in Rock Creek Township, married Gertrude Schoonover; Ella G., who is the wife of Dwight Lesh, of Rock Creek Township; Howard D., who is a farmer in Rock Creek Township, married Masyl Houtz; and Herman L., who resides at home.

Mr. Gilbert is a prominent factor in democratic circles in Wells County, and at times he has served in responsible official capacities. He was on the Board of County Commissioners of Wells County from 1907 until 1913, during which period some very weighty measures of public importance came before the board and were efficiently and economically settled, Mr. Gilbert rendering good service because of his honest convictions and practical ideas. With his family he belongs to the Lutheran Church.

William H. Weinland. The Weinland family has been a prominent one in Wells County over thirty-five years, and it was here that William H. Weinland grew to manhood and since then has gained a place among the substantial farmers of Liberty Township. His home and farm are on the Salamonie Pike 5½ miles south of Bluffton.

Mr. Weinland was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, three miles southeast of Dayton, on June 2, 1873. His parents were John and Margaret A. (Dougherty) Weinland. Of their children five are still living. William H. Weinland was about seven years of age when his parents moved to Wells County, Indiana, and here he attended the district schools of Liberty Township. As a youth he worked hard to get a start in life, and has succeeded in acquiring a good farm of eighty acres in section 36 of Liberty Township and in addition to its profitable management is one of the stockholders of the Bank of Poneto. He and his family are also prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of that village and he is one of its official board. Politically Mr. Weinland is a republican and is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

On May 22, 1895, he married Miss Winona Gavin. Mrs. Weinland is a native of Wells County and of a very old and prominent family here. They have four children: Iantha, who is a graduate of the common schools and is now in the sophomore class of the Bluffton High School, and Robert, Kenneth and Grace.

Mrs. Weinland is a daughter of Robert F. and Martha (McFarren) Gavin. Robert F. Gavin was born in the City of Galway, Ireland, December 11, 1838, a son of George and Mary (Benton) Gavin, the former of Kings County and the latter of Queens County, Ireland, in the Province of Leinster. George Gavin was a son of James and Mary (Benton) Gavin. Mary Benton's father was Henry Benton, for many years connected with the Customs Department in Ireland. George Gavin and Mary Benton married February 23, 1838, in the Cathedral of the City of Galway. For the next ten years he was connected with the Royal Irish Constabulary, but in 1848 the family came to the United States, landing in New York City, and a short time later going to Ross County, Ohio. Here George Gavin engaged in farming until 1854, when he removed to Wells County, Indiana, and lived on a rented farm until 1857, when he came to Liberty Township and bought eighty acres in the midst of the heavy woods. He had only five or six hundred dollars when he arrived in this county, but in later years came to be regarded as one of the most

substantial and prosperous farmers of Liberty Township, with a fine place of 210 acres. He died December 11, 1882. George and Mary Gavin had seven children: Robert F., Mary A., Sarah, who married Harrison Snow, Henrietta, James B., Henry J. and Elizabeth.

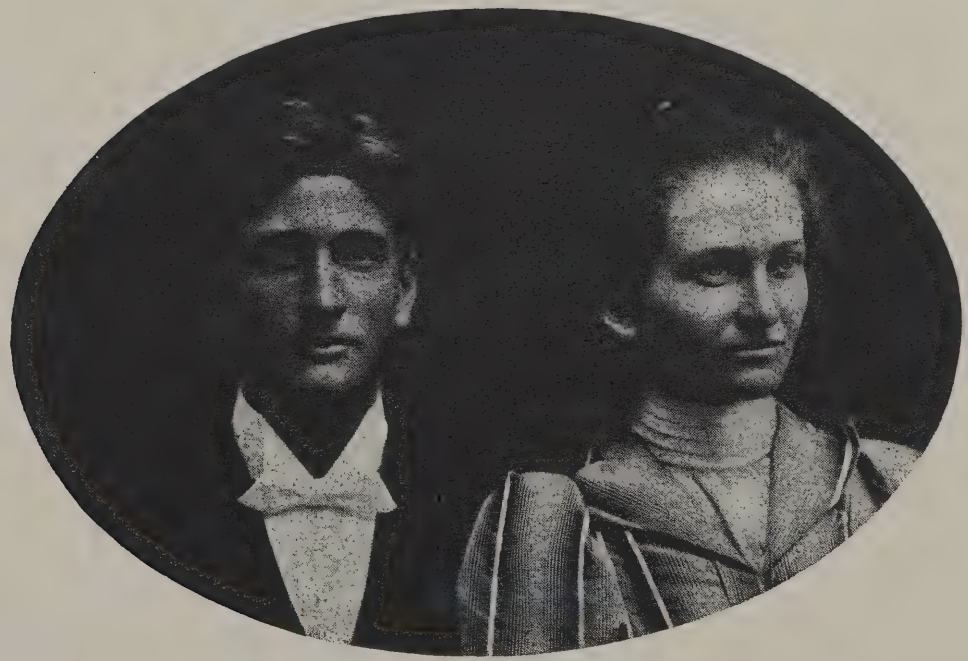
Robert F. Gavin, father of Mrs. Weinland, early showed an ambition to secure an education, and in 1859 was successfully qualified to teach school. He continued as a teacher until 1871, and afterwards engaged in farming and other lines of business which made him one of the well known men of Wells County. March 4, 1866, he married Martha McFarren, daughter of Jacob and Rachel (Foust) McFarren, the former a native of Pennsylvania. Jacob McFarren and wife were married March 4, 1841. The following children were born to Robert F. Gavin and wife: George, deceased; Rachel A.; Mary I., deceased; John F.; Winona, wife of William H. Weinland; Benton W. and Austin S.

Edward L. Huffman is one of the progressive farmers and stock raisers of Wells County. A number of years ago he came to his present farm as a renter, and from the fruits of his industry paid for and is now proprietor of the Riverside Stock Farm, located five miles east of Bluffton on Rural Route No. 6. Mr. Huffman owns 208 acres, highly developed and improved, and for a number of years has been using the land and its resources for breeding and raising high grades of livestock. He has concentrated his chief effort on hogs, and every year he has about 400 head on his farm, and is one of the leaders of Wells County in the hog market.

Mr. Huffman was born on a farm in Hartford Township of Adams County, Indiana, July 3, 1869, a son of John and Mary J. (Runyan) Huffman. His father was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, and his mother in Hartford Township of Adams County. John Huffman came to Adams County when seven years of age, grew up there, acquired a common school education and for several terms was a teacher, though his chief vocation throughout life was farming. He and his wife had five children, and three are still living: Iantha, who graduated from the Linn Grove High School and from the scientific and classical courses of Valparaiso University and is now the wife of Dr. H. H. Mather of Chicago; Nora, a graduate of the Linn Grove High School, took the scientific course of Valparaiso University, and was formerly active as a teacher but is now living at the old farm with her mother; and Edward L.

Edward L. Huffman acquired his early education while a farmer boy in Hartford Township and is also a graduate of the Linn Grove High School. He took advanced work in Normal and scientific courses and had a very successful career as a teacher. Altogether he put in eleven years at Linn Grove as teacher and assistant principal in the Linn Grove High School.

While teaching he was also engaged in farming and has given a close study to agriculture and stock husbandry for a number of years. In 1901 he removed to Wells County, and became a renter on the farm which he has owned since 1907. Mr. Huffman married Miss Minnie Studabaker, youngest daughter of Mrs. A. T. Studabaker. They have four children: Waldo, a student in the Bluffton High School; Dale, who is in the Newville common schools; Madeline, now six years of age; and Max Edward. The family are members of the Six Mile Christian Church, and Mr. Huffman is church treasurer. He is affiliated with Linn Grove Lodge No. 683, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past noble grand, and both he and his wife are active in the Rebekah Lodge at Linn Grove. Politically he is a democrat and while a worker for the



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD L. HUFFMAN

party in earlier years has been content merely to express a preference through his individual vote.

JOHN M. MILLER. One of the old and important families of Wells County, Indiana, bears the name of Miller. It has always been a more or less agricultural family and has always been one that has represented good citizenship, temperance and morality. In the passing away of John A. Miller, on January 21, 1917, Wells County lost a most worthy man and the family the last of the old generation. He was the owner of valuable property, leaving an estate that was valued at $50,000, there being 320 acres in his farm. This property is now ably managed by his son, John M. Miller, who is the administrator of the estate.

John M. Miller was born on this farm April 15, 1874. His parents were John A. and Sarah A. (Martin) Miller. The latter was born in Adams County, Indiana, and died in Wells County, February 28, 1915. Her father was Cephas Martin, an early pioneer in Adams County. Eight children were born to John A. and Sarah A. Miller. Two died in infancy and those surviving in 1918 are as follows: Benjamin F., who is a farmer in Liberty Township; Robert H., who is a resident of California; John M.; Cephas, who is a farmer in Harrison Township; Rufus, who is a farmer near Randall, Kansas; and Harry D., who is a resident of Muncie, Indiana.

John M. Miller has spent his life on the old homestead, which is situated in Harrison Township, three miles south and two and one-half miles east of Bluffton, Indiana. He obtained his education in the public schools, attending the East Smoky Run School for many sessions. Farming and stock raising have been the industries he has carried on on his own farm of 160 acres and he is numbered with the first class farmers of this section of the county. He is also rated as a keen and able business man and in the work of settling up his father's estate, has shown ability and discretion.

Mr. Miller was married September 17, 1911, to Miss Clara Allison, daughter of Melvin and Crissa (Manus) Allison. Her father was born in Missouri and her mother in Jay County, Indiana. Mrs. Miller has two brothers and one sister, namely: William C., who is a resident of South Pekin, Illinois; Ezra, who lives at Pennville, Indiana; and Florence, who is the wife of Arthur Miller, of Medina County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a nephew, John D. Miller, who lives with them. He was born April 10, 1902.

Mr. Miller is a republican in politics and gives hearty support to the party measures and candidates, but is no seeker of political office for himself. He belongs to Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and both he and wife are members of the Order of Pythian Sisters. For many years the Miller family has been strong in its support to the Christian Church and John M. Miller and wife are active members of the Six Mile Church in this neighborhood.

LEWIS M. BEERBOWER. One of the enterprising men extensively engaged in farming in the rich and fertile country of Northeastern Indiana, Lewis M. Beerbower, of Liberty Township, Wells County, has brought to his calling good business methods and excellent judgment, and his labors are being well rewarded. A son of Moses S. Beerbower. he was born, September 16, 1859, in Huntington County, Indiana, of pioneer stock.

Born in Wayne County, Ohio, Moses S. Beerbower came to Huntington County, Indiana, in early life, and for a time was employed at the old McCoy mill, southeast of Warren. He subsequently purchased

160 acres of land in Whitley County, Indiana, and embarked in farming on his own account. In the very last months of the year 1863, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served therein until the close of the war. Returning to Whitley County, he sold his farm, and located in Iona County, Michigan, where he continued his agricultural labors until his death. He married Cynthia Hubbard, who was born in Huntington County, Indiana, and died in Adams County, Indiana, near Geneva. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom died in childhood, and four are now, in 1917, living, as follows: Theodore A., of Adams County; Fred G., living near Columbia, Missouri; John M., of Huntington County; and Lewis M.

Brought up on a farm in Whitley County, Lewis M. Beerbower was educated in the rural schools. As a young man, he spent seven years in Michigan, being variously employed while there. Returning to Indiana, he engaged in agricultural pursuits, that being in the fall of 1875, and has since been actively identified with the farming interests of Wells County. After his marriage, he and his bride began housekeeping on the farm they now occupy, on the northeast half of the southeast quarter of section 18, Liberty Township.

Mr. Beerbower married, July 21, 1889, Miami Buckner, who was born on section 18, Liberty Township, a daughter of William N. Buckner. Her father was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, September 15, 1825, and died on his farm in Liberty Township, Wells County, October 30, 1902. His wife, whose maiden name was Amelia Yelton, was born in Pendleton County, Kentucky, April 17, 1831, and died on the home farm December 20, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Buckner were the parents of nine children, as follows: John T.; Charles N., of Liberty Center; Millie, widow of Joseph Thrailkill, of Liberty Township; Missouri E., living on the old farm; Martha, wife of Byron Preble; George W.; Miami M.; F. M.; and B. F. Mrs. Preble, now deceased, was the mother of five children: Addie, wife of Bazel Gordon; Forest; George; Ardive; and Garrett, now in France. George W. married Emma Adams, of Rockville, Indiana, and at his death, in 1912, left two children, Frank and Mary.

Mrs. Beerbower received a normal school training, and prior to her marriage taught school in Rock Creek Township. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beerbower, namely: Fayetta M., deceased; Theodore, a graduate of the Liberty Center High School, is now in Canada; Ora A., who was graduated from the Liberty Center High School with the class of 1915, subsequently attended Franklin College two years; Hale; and Audra A. Politically Mr. Beerbower is a democrat. Fraternally he belongs to Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and to the encampment at Bluffton, Indiana.

William Brown. A successful agriculturist of Wells County, William Brown is actively following his chosen vocation in Nottingham Township, cultivating his land with good results, the rich soil readily responding to his magic touch, each year yielding satisfactory harvests. A son of Jacob B. Brown, he was born, August 20, 1875, in Phoenix, Wells County, Indiana, where he grew to man's estate.

A native of Randolph County, Indiana, Jacob B. Brown lived there until after his marriage with Ruth Emery, one of his neighborhood playmates and schoolmates. Coming from there to Wells County, he located near Phoenix, where he is still living, an esteemed and respected citizen. His wife died at a comparatively early age. Of the seven children born

of their union, four are now living, as follows: Philip, residing in Oklahoma; William; Ella, wife of Bert Randolph; and Ann.

Obtaining a good common school education, William Brown remained with his parents until attaining his majority. After his marriage he lived in his native township nine months, and then worked in the Indiana oil fields for a period of eleven years, spending the first two years of that time in Peru, and nine years in Blackford County, during the entire time that he was thus employed being absent from work but three days, a record of which he may well be proud. Then, wisely investing his money in land, Mr. Brown purchased seventy acres of land in the southwest corner of Nottingham Township, and in the improvement of his present valuable farm has spared neither time nor expense. His improvements, which are of an excellent character, include among other things the fine bank barn, 40 by 60 feet, with a basement, which he erected in 1916. It is of modern construction, and most conveniently arranged for carrying on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Brown married Pearl Marker, and to them seven children have been born, two of them having died at infancy. The living are: Harold, who was graduated from the Petroleum High School at the age of seventeen years; Earl; Howard; Clyde; and Joy. In his political affiliations, Mr. Brown is a steadfast democrat.

JOHN WEINLAND. Ranking among the prosperous agriculturists of Wells County, the record of whose lives fills an important place in this volume, John Weinland owns and occupies a well-improved and productive farm in Liberty Township, it being located four miles west of Bluffton. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born, January 9, 1847, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

His father, John Weinland, Sr., was born, reared and married in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He began life on his own account in Dauphin County, living there until 1856, when he came as far west as Clark County, Ohio, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. A man of much intelligence, he was active in the affairs of the Reformed Mennonite Church. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Farror, eight children were born, three of whom are now, in 1917, living, as follows: Christian, of Clark County, Ohio; Jacob, of Canada; and John.

Ten years of age when his parents moved to Ohio, John Weinland completed his early education in the common schools of Clark County. Choosing farming for his occupation, he made a practical study of the different branches of agriculture, which he subsequently pursued for awhile in Darke County, Ohio. In 1880 Mr. Weinland came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, and purchased eighty acres three miles west of Poneto in Liberty Township. In 1909 he sold that and moved to this farm of forty acres and has since been industriously engaged in his favorite occupation, and as a tiller of the soil has met with exceptionally good results, his annual harvests comparing most favorably with those of his neighbors.

Mr. Weinland married, in Darke County, Ohio, Margaret A. Dougherty, a sister of Hon. Hugh Dougherty, their wedding having been solemnized February 22, 1870. He continued his residence in that county for a time, but afterwards migrated to Montgomery County, Ohio, where he continued as a farmer until coming to Wells County. Of the eight children born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Weinland, three have passed to the life beyond, one having died in infancy, and five are now living, namely: William of Liberty Township; John, Jr., of Harrison Township; Mary, living with her father; Myrtle is the wife

of Chester Redding of Liberty Township; and Hugh D. of Dunkirk, Indiana. Mrs. Weinland passed to the life beyond January 26, 1911, at a comparatively early age, her death being a loss not only to her family, for which she had so faithfully lived and labored, but to a host of warm friends and acquaintances. Religiously Mr. Weinland is an influential member of the Reformed Church, which he is serving as an elder. He is a stanch republican in politics.

Ross De Vore. One of the substantial farmers and highly respected citizens of Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, is Ross De Vore, who owns one of the large and valuable farms here and is numbered with the most enterprising agriculturists of this section. Strangers would consider this farm a fine property but to Mr. De Vore it is much more, for it means the result of years of industry and thus is in a position to really appreciate its value.

Ross De Vore was born in Hardin County, Ohio, December 12, 1857. His parents were Lewis and Rachel (McNutt) De Vore, both of whom were born in Ohio. They were married there and then came to Indiana and settled in Huntington County near Rock Creek Center about 1860. When the Civil war came on Mr. De Vore enlisted and served as a brave soldier for the Union until its close. He returned then to his home and both he and wife died in Huntington County. They had eight children, six of whom are living, as follows: Mattie, who is the wife of Frank Foster of Warren, Indiana; Kate, who married Albert Van Dolsen; Caroline and Addie, twins, the former of whom is the wife of Charles Siferd, and the latter the wife of Edward De Vore; George, who is a farmer in Nebraska; Ross, whose home is in Wells County; Sarah, who is the second wife of Albert Van Dolsen, his first wife being Kate, her sister, now deceased; Lizzie, deceased, was the first wife of Horace Smith of White County, Indiana.

Ross De Vore was two years old when his parents came from Ohio to Huntington County and too young to remember his father's long absence in the army. He attended the district schools until he was thirteen and then began to take care of himself, hiring out to farmers in the vicinity and giving faithful service, although his wage was small. He was honest and persevering and early learned to be saving and received better wages after he came to Wells County and was employed by D. D. Studabaker, and worked for him from April 13, 1889, until October 4, 1894, after which he worked entirely for himself. His farm of 100 acres is situated two miles south of Bluffton, on the Newville turnpike road. Mr. De Vore is a general farmer and devotes his land to grain and also raises good stock. Farming has been his business his entire life and he thoroughly understands every phase of it.

On October 4, 1894, Mr. De Vore was married to Miss Sarah Studabaker, daughter of David D. Studabaker. She was born in 1868 near Bluffton, Indiana, and has a wide relationship in the county, her people being among the leading families of the state. Mr. and Mrs. De Vore have two sons, namely: Homer, who completed the public school course at Bluffton and then entered Purdue University; and Robert, who attends the local school. Mr. De Vore and family are members of the Six-Mile Christian Church, in which he is a deacon and also a member of the board of trustees, and Mrs. De Vore is an active Sunday school worker. In politics he is a republican.

Israel T. Allen. One of the early families still represented in Wells County, Indiana, was that of Allen, and it came from Ohio,

sturdy representatives of the fine old stock that settled the Northwest Territory. Travel from one state to another in 1851 was attended with both hardships and dangers, but the Allens were prepared for emergencies and endured them as well as did their traveling companions, who later were their neighbors in Grant County. There Israel T. Allen, one of Wells County's substantial citizens of the present day, was born on February 7, 1854. His parents were James M. and Elizabeth (Martin) Allen. They were natives of Clinton County, Ohio, not far distant from Centerville in Montgomery County, and the father was born February 17, 1822, and the mother was born in 1827.

After their marriage, James M. Allen and wife continued to live in Clinton County, where he was a farmer, until 1851, when they concluded to seek a new home farther west. They were quiet, worthy, industrious people, such as are welcome in any neighborhood, and during their many years of residence in Grant County, near Miertown, they became respected and esteemed. The latter part of their lives were passed near Swayzee, Indiana, where they died in advanced age.

Israel T. Allen has been more or less connected with farm pursuits all his life. He early assisted his father and attended the public schools during the winter seasons until he was twenty years old. At that time there were long stretches of timber in this section of the state and in the cutting and hauling of the same many young men found profitable occupation. Mr. Allen went into the business as did others and ever since has been to some extent connected with lumber interests and for some years bought timber tracts. He now devotes himself mainly to farming, owning a fine property of 117 acres, which is situated near the old Powell Ford, about two miles east of Bluffton, on Rural Mail Route 4. He has been a very prudent and industrious man all his life and what he now owns he has earned through his own efforts.

Mr. Allen has been twice married. His first wife was Delphina J. Stanton, who was the mother of three daughters, two of whom survive her in 1917. His second marriage was to Eliza J. Markley of Madison County, Ohio. In politics Mr. Allen is a sound democrat and a loyal supporter of the present administration at Washington. He has been a resident of Wells County for many years, and is well and favorably known in this and adjoining counties. He has long advocated a system of good roads and at the present time is one of the superintendents of the fine gravel roads in Wells County.

Dilman Myers. While Harrison Township, Wells County, is noted for the fertility of its soil, the success which attends the labors of some of the agriculturists here cannot be altogether attributed to this fact. A thorough understanding of the principles of farming and the possession of the good judgment and the industry to apply them, are, after all, the biggest factors in making a farmer's life pleasant and profitable. One of the intelligent and well informed farmers of this section is Dilman Myers, who owns eighty-seven acres of finely cultivated land. It is favorably situated eight miles east and south of Bluffton, on Rural Route No. 2.

Dilman Myers was born in Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, September 18, 1871. His parents were Sylvester and Rebecca (Warner) Myers, both natives of Wells County, the former born in Harrison and the latter in Nottingham Township. Both spent their long and useful lives in their native county, where the father died August 2, 1912, and the mother April 2, 1888. They attended religious services at Myers Chapel, so named after the Myers family, and were members of the Methodist Protestant Church. The father was a demo-

crat in his political opinions. Seven children were born to them and the following are living: Finley, who is a farmer in Jay County, Indiana; Dilman; Frank, who is a machinist, operates a sawmill, a threshing machine and a clover huller, owns a farm, and lives at Rifesburg; and Chauncy, who lives at Bluffton.

Dilman Myers grew to manhood on the home farm in Harrison Township and attended the Myers Chapel school. He remained at home and assisted his father until he was twenty-eight years of age, thereby gaining experience that has ever since been of value to him. He has his farm well arranged and gives some attention to stock as well as crops and carries out his plans in a thorough and practical way. He has made many excellent improvements and has the satisfaction of knowing that each year his land increases in value.

Mr. Myers was married March 22, 1899, to Miss Effie May Nute, who was born in Wells County, Indiana, February 24, 1875. Mrs. Myers is a well educated lady, having qualified as a teacher and for several terms taught school in this county. She is greatly interested in educational movements and both she and Mr. Myers desire their children to have every possible educational advantage. Six children have been born to them, as follows: Raymond S., who was born January 31, 1900, was a member of the 1918 class in the Bluffton High School, but now in the war; Ruby F., who was born July 24, 1904, is a student in the high school at Bluffton; and Ralph A., Tamar L., Mary E. and Lorena B. Mr. Myers and family attend the Myers Chapel Church, of which he is one of the trustees. He takes a deep interest in the Sunday school, in which he is a teacher and also is assistant superintendent. He was reared in the democratic political faith but has never taken any active part in campaigns.

Capt. William R. Farlow. A resident of Wells County many years, a substantial farm proprietor near Poneto in Chester Township, Capt. William R. Farlow led a company of Union soldiers in the Union army during the Civil war, and for that reason alone is entitled to the enviable distinction and esteem in which he has always been held by all who honor the part played by the soldiers of the '60s and his record since that war has been equally creditable.

Captain Farlow was born in Ross County, Ohio, March 10, 1843, a son of Benjamin and Sophia (Adams) Farlow. His father was born in Delaware, came to Ohio with his parents at the age of eight years, and grew up and married in Ross County, where he and his wife spent their useful years as successful farmers. There were four children in the family, one of whom died in infancy. The other three are still living: Captain Farlow; Sarah, widow of Benjamin Hill; and W. T. Farlow of Bridgeport, Illinois.

Captain Farlow grew up in Ross County, attended the district schools, and in November, 1861, when in his nineteenth year, enlisted in Company C of the Seventy-third Ohio. He went with the regiment into the eastern arena of the war, and took part in the second battle of Bull Run, where he was wounded and incapacitated for further active duty. He was given his honorable discharge, but some months later, having recuperated, he went to work and recruited a new company which became Company H of the 149th Ohio Infantry. He was captain of this company until he was given his final discharge and mustered out of service.

After the war Captain Farlow returned to Ross County, married there, and in the fall of 1870 came to Indiana and soon afterwards

located on a farm in Chester Township. He leased a tract of land, cultivated and cleared it up, and at the end of eight years bought the farm he now owns, comprising 102 acres. Captain Farlow was the father of nine children, seven of whom reached maturity, and six are still living. His good wife passed away December 20, 1908. Captain Farlow is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is also affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men. In politics he has been steadfastly a republican, though the honors of politics have never attracted him to any extent. He is a stockholder in the elevator at Poneto and is still active in business though several years past the age of three score and ten.

William J. Gavin. Active, industrious and thrifty, William J. Gavin, of Liberty Township, shows much ability in the management of his agricultural interests, and occupies an assured position among the prosperous farmers of Wells County. A native of Indiana, he was born in the township where he now lives, on the old Gavin homestead, his birth occurring October 22, 1875.

His father, James B. Gavin, a retired farmer, now living in Bluffton, was born in County Galway, Ireland, and when but two years old, in 1848, was brought by his parents, George and Mary (Benton) Gavin, to America, and after living a few years in Ohio came with the family to Wells County, Indiana, where he has since lived. Until his retirement from active business he was extensively engaged in general farming in Liberty Township, where he was a large real estate owner. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Hedges, seven children were born, five of whom are now, in 1917, living, as follows: Charles B., of Liberty Township; William J., of this sketch; Mary, wife of B. J. Buckner, of Liberty Township; Frank, a farmer, living in Bluffton; and Theophilus, a graduate of Adrian College, in Adrian, Michigan, taught school in Texas and in Kansas, and is now a resident of Liberty Township.

Acquiring his early education in the district schools, William J. Gavin remained at home until attaining his majority. After his marriage he settled with his bride on the farm he now owns and occupies, and for ten years was actively engaged in general farming. Going then to North Dakota, he bought 160 acres of wild land, and at once began its improvement, continuing thus employed for four years. Realizing at the end of that time that no better farming region could be found than that furnished by Indiana, Mr. Gavin returned, November 3, 1910, to Wells County, and resumed possession of the farm on which he and his wife began housekeeping, and here he has since remained. Energetic and wide-awake, he has continued the improvements previously begun, having his eighty acres of rich and fertile land under an excellent state of culture, and in August, 1916, completed the fine, modernly constructed house now occupied by himself and family.

Mr. Gavin married, June 9, 1896, Anna Howard, who was born on a farm in Liberty Township, Wells County, January 9, 1876. Her parents, John and Mary J. (Prentiss) Howard, were both born and bred in Ohio, and both died at an early age in Liberty Township, the father dying before the birth of his daughter Anna, and the mother a little more than six years later. Mr. and Mrs. Gavin have four children, namely: Victor F., Mary, Ruth and Ruby. In his political relations Mr. Gavin is a stanch democrat. Religiously Mrs. Gavin is a member of the Liberty Center Baptist Church.

Charles W. Plummer. In the Indiana plan of local government the most important office is that of township trustee. Through this

office is administered the business and financial management of the local schools and the condition of the schools, the highways, and other improvements are largely an index of the character of the man chosen to fill that important office.

The people of Jackson Township in Wells County have many times congratulated themselves upon the fortunate choice of Charles W. Plummer for the office of trustee. Mr. Plummer has taken a great deal of pride and given his time unreservedly to the duties of his office, and his record sets a high water mark of administrative efficiency.

Mr. Plummer is also one of the live and progressive farmers of that township, his home being on section 12. He was born in Rush County, Indiana, November 3, 1868, a son of Benjamin and Harriet (Conrad) Plummer. His parents were both born near Maysville, Kentucky, were married there, and later removed to Rush County, Indiana, and in 1876 established their home on a farm near Van Buren in Grant County, Indiana, where the rest of their useful and honorable careers were spent. They were the parents of nine children, and five are still living: Thomas of Van Buren Township, Grant County; Mary S.; Charles W.; Emery J. of Robinson, Illinois; and William H. of Van Buren, Indiana.

Charles W. Plummer was eight years old when his parents moved to Grant County and on the home farm he grew to maturity and acquired an education in the local schools. About the time he reached his majority he began doing for himself, and has been dependent upon his own exertions to put him ahead in the race of life.

On December 24, 1894, he married Miss Winnie Steel, who was born in Whitley County, Indiana, June 13, 1872, a daughter of Andrew J. Steel. Her father was at one time proprietor of a saw mill at Warren, Indiana, and in that community Mrs. Plummer spent most of her girlhood and received her education. After his marriage Mr. Plummer located at Warren for a year, and then moved to a farm in Jefferson Township of Huntington County. In March, 1907, he came to Jackson Township of Wells County and bought the eighty acres comprising his present excellent homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Plummer have five children: Ruth M., a graduate of the common schools and now the wife of Bascom Kidd of Jackson Township; Mary A., who has finished the work of the common schools and is still at home; Ivan, born March 12, 1905; Esther, born June 17, 1913; and Florence, born September 18, 1917. The family are active members of the United Brethren Church of Mount Zion and Mr. Plummer is one of the trustees of the church.

Politically he has always affiliated with the democratic party. His election to the office of trustee of Jackson Township occurred on November 3, 1914, and he entered upon his official duties on January 1, 1915.

Charles A. Palmer. Prominent among the native born citizens of Wells County, who have spent their lives within its borders and have contributed of their time and energies towards the advancement of its leading interests, is Charles A. Palmer, a well-to-do and enterprising agriculturist whose birth occurred June 1, 1875, in Jackson Township, on the farm which he now owns and occupies.

Mr. Palmer's father, Cassius M. Palmer, was born in Blackford County, Indiana, October 3, 1850, and was there reared to manhood. Becoming a tiller of the soil, he bought land on section 31, Jackson Township, Wells County, and on the farm which he improved was busily employed until his death, February 17, 1914. The maiden name of his wife was Minerva M. Skinner. She was born October 15, 1853, in Licking County, Ohio, and at the age of fourteen years came with her parents,

John and Sarah (Drum) Skinner, to Blackford County, Indiana, where, on December 28, 1871, she was united in marriage with Cassius M. Palmer. Two children were born of their union, namely: Cora E., wife of Luther Lightle, of Jackson Township; and Charles A.

Brought up on the parental homestead, Charles A. Palmer acquired his early education in the district schools, and on the farm was well drilled in agricultural pursuits. Succeeding to the ownership of the farm on which he has always resided, Mr. Palmer is following his chosen occupation successfully, having 110 acres of choice land, which he cultivates with good results, the rich soil yielding abundant harvests of hay, grain and other productions common to this section of the country.

The maiden name of the wife of Mr. Palmer was Maude M. McMillan. She was born, November 27, 1880, in Grant County, Indiana. Her father, D. S. McMillan, was born in 1847, in the same county, in the month of July. He married Hettie F. Shuck, who was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, January 16, 1860, and to them eight children were born, as follows: Maude M.; Lulu I.; Archie I., wife of Ned Conwell, of Van Buren, Indiana; Alexander J., of Oklahoma; Bessie, wife of Dr. W. W. Mott, of Van Buren; Ruth L., wife of Charles Curnes, of Huntington, Indiana; Lida J.; and Madona L., a student in the Van Buren High School. Mr. and Mrs. McMillan are residents of Van Buren.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have one child, Dorothy I., born May 11, 1907. Politically Mr. Palmer supports the principles of the republican party by voice and vote. Religiously both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church.

JOHN F. KREIGH. There are solid and substantial business houses at Echo that were started with small capital and that have been built up into important enterprises through the steady industry and business ability of their owners, without any outside assistance except that coming to them through legitimate trade. One such started here in 1889 as a tile manufacturing and milling business, has grown to large proportions and has embraced other lines and is still steadily prospering. Reference is made to the industries in which John F. Kreigh is interested.

John F. Kreigh was born in Jefferson Township, Wells County, Indiana, July 5, 1864. His parents were Samuel and Magdalena (Beek) Kreigh. The father was born in 1829 and came to Wells County when he was twenty-three years old, from Pennsylvania. The mother was born in Germany in 1832 and was brought to the United States and to Fort Wayne, Indiana, by her parents, when six years old. They were married in 1847 and the following children were born to them: Martin, who is deceased; Samuel, who married Elizabeth Repright; Rosa, who is deceased; Eliza, who married Isaac Green; Mary, who married Nicholas Shorts; Rebecca, who is deceased; John F.; Sarah, who married David White; and Charles, who married Bertha Lechnor.

John F. Kreigh attended the public schools of Williamsport, Indiana, and was variously engaged prior to 1889 when in partnership with his brother Charles he went into a tile manufacturing and milling business at Echo. It required courage and effort to get the business on a sound foundation, but the young men were persevering and enterprising and in ten years' time were ready to widen their field of operations and opened a grocery store in connection. Their business policy has always been the satisfying of their customers and treating them honestly and courteously. They are numbered with the sound business men of this place.

John F. Kreigh was married September 18, 1889, to Miss Sadie Feighner, who is a daughter of Daniel and Christina Feighner, who have four other children, namely: John; Cora, who married Fenna Platt; Millard, who married Delay Brubebaker; and George. Mr. and Mrs. Kreigh have had four children, three of whom survive: Wilda, who married Oral Heckley, of Wells County; and Rosa and Warner, both of whom live with their parents. The eldest child, George, is deceased. Mr. Kreigh is known to be a good citizen, a supporter of church and schools and an upholder of the laws. He has never sought any political office for himself, but heartily supports others who are candidates of the republican party, if they meet with the approval of his judgment.

Edward Neuenschwander is a merchant of long and active experience, has been connected with the hardware trade in various localities since early youth, and is now proprietor of the leading store of that kind at the Village of Vera Cruz in Harrison Township of Wells County.

Vera Cruz is his birthplace. He was born April 23, 1856, a son of Ulrich and Anna (Sauer) Neuenschwander. His father was born in Switzerland April 15, 1814, was an early settler in Wells County and died at Vera Cruz June 16, 1916, when past ninety years of age. His wife was born in Ohio March 30, 1830, and died October 28, 1864. They had six children: William, of St. Louis, Missouri; Edward; Levi, who was born August 26, 1858, and died January 24, 1900; and Bertha, born December 21, 1860, and died March 4, 1901; Albertine, born May 22, 1862, widow of Charles Waltermath; and Mabel living at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Edward Neuenschwander grew up in the Village of Vera Cruz, had a common school education and in 1872 went to Lima, Ohio, and found employment in a hardware store. In 1876 he entered the service of the Prescott Brothers Hardware Company at Fort Wayne, and in 1888 invested his modest capital in a business of his own at Linn Grove. In 1905 Mr. Neuenschwander opened a new stock of goods at Vera Cruz and has since been steadily prospering and extending his trade relations all over that section of Wells County. Mr. Neuenschwander began life with very little capital, and is now head of a successful business and owns property at Linn Grove and several pieces of real estate in Vera Cruz.

May 10, 1894, he married Mary Hilty, who was born at Beaver Dam, Ohio, and died February 13, 1903. In July, 1906, Mr. Neuenschwander married Frances Biberstein. Mrs. Neuenschwander is an active member of the German Reformed Church. Politically he is a democrat and has performed a yeoman's service in behalf of the party and to the benefit of every worthy movement in his locality.

John Gregg. For nearly three score years actively identified with the development and advancement of the agricultural interests of Wells County, the late John Gregg of Liberty Township was an honored representative of the early pioneers of this section of the state, and a true type of the energetic and enterprising men who, by diligent toil, succeeded in transforming a forest-covered land into a fertile and productive agricultural region. A native of Ireland, he was born in County Donegal, May 9, 1829. His parents, Richard and Fannie (McClure) Gregg, life-long residents of Ireland, reared several children, three of whom, John, William and Daniel, immigrated in early manhood to America.

Arriving in the United States in June, 1851, John Gregg found his

first employment in Philadelphia, after which he followed his trade of a bricklayer in Wayne County, Ohio, for a while, in the meantime purchasing a tract of wild land in Liberty Township, Wells County, Indiana. In 1855 Mr. Gregg visited his relatives and friends in Ireland, remaining there about six months. Returning to this country early in 1856, Mr. Gregg married soon after, and immediately settled on his farm in Liberty Township. He cleared and improved his homestead of 130 acres, and during his many years of active life occupied a leading position among the skilful and practical agriculturists of his community. In 1879 he again visited his old home in Ireland, remaining a few months. His death, which occurred February 9, 1907, was deemed a loss, not only to his immediate family, but to town and county.

Mr. Gregg married, October 19, 1858, Fannie Wallace, who was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, March 28, 1841, a daughter of Samuel and Susanna (Jackson) Wallace. Her father was born in Ireland November 19, 1805, and in 1832 came to the United States, and having settled in Wells County, Indiana, bought land in Rock Creek Township, where he was for many years extensively engaged in farming, being proprietor of large tracts of land. Mrs. Gregg still occupies the homestead on which she and her husband lived so happily together for forty-nine years. She united when young with the Presbyterian Church at Bluffton, to which her husband also belonged, and is now one of its valued and esteemed members. Thirteen children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gregg, eight of whom are living, namely: Richard S., engaged in farming in Harrison Township; Sarah J., living with her mother; J. W. of Detroit, Michigan; Joseph D. of Liberty Center; Mary E., wife of F. R. Cochran of Missouri; Fannie E., wife of Joseph H. Bumbaugh of Jay County, Indiana; Thomas D. of Liberty Township; and John W., living with his mother and sister. Mrs. Gregg also reared a grandson, Kenneth E. Gregg, whom she took into her home and heart when he was but five months old, his birth having occurred March 12, 1901. He is now a junior in the Liberty Center High School.

I. V. L. Garrett. Especially worthy of mention in a work of this character was the late I. V. L. Garrett, a prosperous agriculturist of Wells County, and a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of Liberty Township. A son of Noah Garrett, he was born, February 13, 1862, in Wayne County, Ohio.

Noah Garrett, a native of Pennsylvania, started westward in early life, going first to Wayne County, Ohio, where he lived and labored a number of years. Later, he came with his family to Wells County, Indiana, where he bought a tract of land, and on the farm which he improved spent his remaining years. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Leah Funk, four children were born and reared, as follows: I. V. L., of this brief biography; Alice, wife of Alonzo Rittenhouse of Liberty Township; Frank C. of Liberty Township; and Walter O., residing in Liberty Center.

Coming with his parents to Wells County, Indiana, as a boy I. V. L. Garrett obtained a practical education in the common schools. Selecting farming as his occupation, he remained on the home farm until ready to establish a home of his own, when he assumed possession of the farm of eighty acres now occupied by his widow.

Mr. Garrett married, December 24, 1885, Fanny Howard. She was born in Jackson County, Ohio, August 4, 1864, and while yet an infant was brought by her parents to Wells County, the trip having been made with teams. The parents lived for a while in Nottingham Township,

but in 1868 settled in Liberty Township, on the farm now occupied by Jacob L. Eckhart, and there spent their remaining days. They reared eight children, of whom six are now, in 1917, living, as follows: Emeline, wife of J. W. Collins of Harrison Township; Lindsay, now employed in the Illinois oil fields; Fanny, now Mrs. Garrett; Mary J., wife of Homer Bumgarner of Bluffton; Martha E., wife of Alfred Thompson of Liberty Township; and Anna E., wife of William J. Gavin of Liberty Township. Mrs. Garrett is a woman of culture and ability, and prior to her marriage taught school five terms in Liberty and Jackson townships. She has two daughters, namely: Vera I., born in June, 1888, is living with her mother; and Bertha B., born in 1894, was graduated from the Liberty Center High School, and is now a student at Franklin College. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett united with the Liberty Center Baptist Church many years ago, and towards its support have been generous contributors. Politically Mr. Garrett was a steadfast republican.

James N. Shadle is a native son of Chester Township, Wells County, and for over forty years has applied his energies to the business of farming and stock raising and is easily one of the most substantial business men and citizens of that community. His farm is in section 8 of Chester Township.

He was born in that township October 26, 1854, a son of Philip and Margaret (Donnelly) Shadle. Philip Shadle is a remarkable instance of longevity, and despite his hardships and experiences as a pioneer in Wells County is still living at the venerable age of ninety-two. He was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1825, son of Philip and Mary (McGlade) Shadle. His father was a native of Center County, Pennsylvania, while Mary McGlade was two years old when her parents came from Ireland. The grandparents married in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and for twenty-five years made their home in Lebanon County. In 1836 they removed to Wayne County, Ohio, a year later to Holmes County, and in the fall of 1847 traded the Ohio farm for 110 acres of wild land in Wells County, Indiana. Philip Shadle, Sr., was a carpenter by trade and hewed out the logs for his home in Wells County and made the first substantial house of the kind in Chester Township. His wife died in Wells County in January, 1855, and he passed away in 1874.

The venerable Philip Shadle was reared and educated in Ohio, and in Wayne County, that state, married August 7, 1845, Miss Margaret Donnelly, a native of Pennsylvania and daughter of John and Fannie (Singer) Donnelly, also natives of Pennsylvania. The Donnelly family moved from Pennsylvania to Wayne County, Ohio, about 1835, and in 1850 went to Holmes County, Ohio. Philip Shadle brought his family to Wells County the year after his father's settlement, and located on a tract of sixty-five acres of the old homestead. He looked after the farm while his father followed his trade as a carpenter, and being a man of great strength and industry he cleared up with the assistance of his children fully 150 acres of the virgin land of Chester Township. He became owner of a fine farm and he kept in close touch with its operation until advanced years. His good wife was born January 14, 1829, and their companionship was one of remarkable length, being terminated after more than seventy years by her death on January 21, 1917. For years they were faithful members and active workers in the United Presbyterian Church. Philip Shadle was a man of affairs in his township and county, was township trustee six years, and as a republican at one time was chairman of the Republican Committee in his home township. He and his wife had a large family of fifteen

children, and six sons and two daughters are still living: William A., James N., Lucetta, wife of John Godfrey; Reason, Samuel, John, Eli and Ada, wife of Frank Stair.

As member of such a family, James N. Shadle naturally learned habits of industry and thrift when a boy, and those were perhaps more important to his later life than the formal instruction he acquired in the neighboring district schools. He assisted his father in clearing away some of the land, in getting the farm into cultivation, and was well prepared to assume the serious responsibilities of making a home when he married.

In 1875 Mr. Shadle married Miss Caroline Penrod. They are the parents of three children. Oscar lives near the old home and is married; Mertie is the wife of Lester Clark; and Maude married John Osborn.

The Shadle family are active members of the Christian Church. Politically Mr. Shadle votes as a republican. He is a public spirited man in his community, and has allied himself with various movements for general advancement in addition to the responsibilities he has long carried as a farmer. Mr. Shadle's farm comprises 220 acres, and he has always used it for breeding and raising of good grades of livestock of all kinds.

Edgar N. Cassell. The agricultural development of any county or township does not depend upon the efforts of any one individual, but results from the combined labors and enterprise of many. There are, however, usually a few who are leaders and who know best not only how to utilize their own labors but to so direct the energies of others as to produce results of far-reaching importance in agricultural life. Among those who are prominently connected with movements making for progress in Chester Township, Wells County, one who is well known, is Edgar N. Cassell, whose finely developed farm is located on Poneto Rural Route No. 1.

Edgar N. Cassell was born at Hartford City, Indiana, July 23, 1874, a son of Dr. G. W. and Arabella (Moorman) Cassell. The family was one of the most prominently known at Hartford City, which was laid out by Abram Cassell, the grandfather of Edgar N., in the capacity of county surveyor of Blackford County, Indiana. Abram Cassell had come as a pioneer to Blackford County and owned much land in the locality in which Hartford City was situated. He rounded out his life in agricultural pursuits and became one of the well-to-do men of his community. Dr. G. W. Cassell was born at Hartford City, was thoroughly prepared for the profession of medicine, and for many years practiced as a physician and surgeon. During a long period he practiced at Hartford City, where he was widely and favorably known, but in later years centered his professional business in the communities of Keystone and Poneto, and his death occurred at Hartford City, Indiana. Doctor Cassell was one of the skilled men of his calling and was highly regarded by his professional associates and by the public in general. His ability and industry combined to gain him a handsome material competency, and at his death his property was divided among his children. He was a church member, and in addition to the organizations of his calling belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Of his six children three are living at this time: Edgar N.; Ida, who is the wife of Guy Mahoney of Hartford City, Indiana; and Bonnie, the wife of Jesse Craft, also of that city.

Edgar N. Cassell was reared at Hartford City, in Chester Township, and at Keystone and Poneto, and attended school in all of these com-

munities. While his father was a professional man, the family home was on a farm during a large part of the time, and thus it was that Edgar N. Cassell grew up more as an agriculturist than anything else and that he turned his attention naturally to that vocation when he entered upon his life's work. When still a young man he was united in marriage with Miss Blanche Starr, daughter of B. F. Starr, and they have since resided on the old Starr homestead place, which had been originally settled by Mrs. Cassell's grandfather, B. F. Starr, Sr. Mr. Cassell carries on general farming, but like many others in the county specializes to some extent, particularly in the way of breeding Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Of this stock he has a herd of twenty head, at the head of which is the individual Duck Creek Phelps. He has also other good grades of stock, and is a director in the Farmers Co-Operative Elevator Company at Poneto, and a director in the Farmers State Bank, of which he was one of the organizers. In politics he is a republican, but not active.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassell are the parents of three children: Mazie, a graduate of the Hartford City High School, class of 1917; and Madge and George, who are both attending the Keystone High School.

David H. Morris. An esteemed and highly respected citizen of Wells County, and one of its enterprising and progressive farmers, David H. Morris has for many years been intimately associated with the development and promotion of the agricultural interests of Liberty Township, his well-kept and finely-managed estate being located on the Smoky Row Pike, in Liberty Township, five miles west of Bluffton. He was born, August 7, 1845, in Highland County, Ohio, where his childhood days were spent.

Isaac Morris, his father, was born in Highland County, Ohio, August 29, 1820, and was there actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years. He was twice married. He married first Jane Martin, a native of Ohio. She died April 17, 1847, leaving but one child, David H., of this sketch, who subsequently lived with an aunt until his father remarried. In the winter of 1851-2 Isaac Morris came with his family to Indiana, and having purchased a tract of wild land in Randolph County began the pioneer task of redeeming a farm from the wilderness. Successful in his task, he continued a resident of that county until his death, at the venerable age of eighty-three years.

But seven years of age when brought to Indiana, David H. Morris was educated in the district schools, and throughout his earlier life assisted his father in clearing a homestead, laboring courageously and perseveringly. Reared to habits of industry and economy, he was wise in his savings, and prudent in his expenditures, and after his marriage bought a farm on White River, Randolph County, where he lived about five years and then bought the farm he now owns in Liberty Township, Wells County. Laboring with characteristic energy and foresight, Mr. Morris has now one of the best and most desirable pieces of property in his community, his farm being under a good state of cultivation, and yielding abundantly of the crops commonly grown in this section of the state. Mr. Morris moved to Bluffton in the spring of 1918 and retired from active work, giving his son, Isaac, full charge of the home farm.

Mr. Morris married March 28, 1874, Lochie A. Taylor, who spent her entire life in Wells County except for the five years spent in Randolph County. Her death occurred on the home farm, in Liberty Township, March 10, 1896. Seven children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morris, namely: Elmer E., who is married and lives in Liberty Township; Mary J., living at home; Ida I., wife of Thomas Gregg of

Liberty Township; Edna A., wife of Charles Haughton; Bessie E., deceased, wife of William Barcus; Isaac O., who married March 31, 1917, lives on the home farm with his father; and Taylor Alonzo, deceased. Politically Mr. Morris is a prohibitionist, and religiously he is a Quaker.

William J. Archbold has played a very prominent part in the affairs of Decatur and of Adams County, both as a business man and public official. He was county treasurer in 1914-15, elected to that office on the democratic ticket. A stancher and truer American there could not be found anywhere, and it was his splendid loyalty to the essential fundamentals of American life and also his strenuous opposition to the saloon element that caused Mr. Archbold's defeat for re-election.

The name Archbold is one of the oldest and most honored in Adams County, where it was established about the time the county was organized. The Archbolds are of Irish ancestry. His great-grandfather, Thomas Patrick Archbold, fought as a soldier in the American Revolution and also in the War of 1812. He died either in Pennsylvania or in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. His son, Thomas Archbold, grandfather of William J., was born in Pennsylvania in 1800, and was quite young when he went with his parents to Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He grew up there, and married Malinda Andrews.

It was in 1835, a year before Adams County was formally organized, that Thomas Archbold brought his father to this section of Indiana. He located a tract of government land in Root Township a mile and a half northwest of Decatur. At that time there were numerous Indians, but friendly, and they were less an obstacle to the pioneers than more natural difficulties that stood in the way of cultivation and improvement. Much of the land was low and swampy and it was also covered with heavy timber. The woods furnished one source of support to the pioneers in the abundance of game. The Archbold family knew Decatur as a village of a few houses and their neighbors were few and far between. Thomas Archbold cleared a space in the wilderness, erected a log cabin, and in the course of many years by unremitting industry had a first class farm. Thomas Archbold died on the old homestead in 1872 at the age of seventy-two. His wife was born in 1802 and died in 1874. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Thomas Archbold was one of the most influential democrats in the early days of Adams County. He was the father of three sons and six daughters, nearly all of whom reached old age, and two of the daughters are still living.

Jeremiah Archbold, father of William J., was the fourth child in his parents' family. He was born in Ohio September 25, 1829, and was six years of age when brought to Adams County. He grew up with the old Root Township farm as his environment, and eventually owned half of that farm, comprising a little more than 100 acres. To its cultivation and superintendence he gave the active years of his life, and he died there honored and respected on June 10, 1917, when nearly eighty-eight years of age. He was a lifelong supporter and voter with the democratic party. For twenty-six years he held the office of justice of the peace. Whether officially or otherwise he was a man whose word was almost accepted as law, and he presided over his justice court with such dignity and impartiality that few decisions were ever appealed and rarely was one of them reversed by a higher court.

In Adams County Jeremiah Archbold married Lovina Paulison, who was born in New Jersey in 1832, was taken when very young to Ohio and was still a girl in her teens when she came to Adams County and settled in Root Township with her parents, John and Elizabeth (Van

Camp) Paulison. Her parents spent the rest of their days in Root Township, and her father died in his fiftieth year. There were many sons and daughters in the Paulison family, but only one of them is still living. The Paulisons were members of the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Lovina Archbold died at the old home at the age of eighty-three. She became a member of the Methodist Church. There were four sons and five daughters, five of whom are still living, William J. being the fourth in age.

Mr. Archbold was reared on his father's farm, and made the best use of his educational advantages. He worked as a farmer and also taught school until he was twenty-six and after his marriage he taught for two years.

In 1890 he married Miss Izora J. Mann, daughter of Joseph E. and Louisa (Kiess) Mann. Her parents were among the early settlers of Root Township. Her father spent his career as a farmer and died several years ago at the age of sixty-nine. The widowed mother is still living, hale and hearty, and occupies the old homestead, being now nearly three score and ten years old. The Manns were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Archbold was born in 1871, and was well educated, graduating from the common schools under William J. Archbold as teacher.

In the fall of 1890 Mr. Archbold came to Decatur and for eighteen years was local agent of the Adams Express Company. During part of that time and later he served sixteen years as city treasurer. Mr. Archbold in a business way is known as a manufacturer of specialties for steam boilers and he has built up a successful business and markets the output through his own agency. He and his family occupy a nice home at 38 North Tenth Street. Mr. and Mrs. Archbold have the following family of children: Lawrence, Marion, Earl, Esther and Catherine. Lawrence is a graduate of Purdue University and is now employed as chemist with the Holland Street Sugar Beet Factory of Decatur. He married Miss Alice Elliott of Lafayette, Indiana. The son Marion also pursued technical courses in Purdue University and is a chemical engineer. He saw active service during the troubles along the Mexican border in 1916 and qualified as a first class gunner. The son Earl is now seventeen years of age and in the third year of the city high school, while the two younger children, Esther and Catherine, are aged respectively twelve and five years. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John Jellison. Now spending his declining years in peace and comfort on his farm in Chester Township, John Jellison is one of the sturdy young men who responded to the call to arms when the Union was in its most critical danger and fought well and hard as a private in the ranks for three years. More than half a century has passed since that great war and these years Mr. Jellison has employed quietly and industriously as an agriculturist in Wells County.

He was born in Preble County, Ohio, October 17, 1839, a son of Ephraim and Mary A. (Reed) Jellison. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania, his father of Westmoreland County. They married in Preble County, Ohio, and lived there for a number of years. On September 25, 1853, the family arrived in Wells County, and established home in the new district of Chester Township. The parents spent the rest of their days there, and the father became a republican voter upon the organization of the party. There were four children in the family and Mr. John Jellison is the last survivor. His brother James gave up his life to the Union at the battle of Chickamauga on September 19, 1863.

The two daughters were Mary E. and Sarah J. The latter never married. Mary became the wife of Isaac Jones.

John Jellison was fourteen years of age when the family came to Wells County. He had attended district schools in Ohio, and he grew to manhood with the sturdy discipline of a new farm in Wells County. On August 1, 1862, he responded to the call for 300,000 men to put down the rebellion, enlisting as a private in Company E of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry. He saw nearly three years of active service carrying a musket through some of the hardest fought campaigns of the war. He was not mustered out until June 8, 1865. A partial list of the battles in which he participated indicate the campaigns by which the Confederacy was gradually split in two and triumph brought to the Union flag. These battles were Hartsville, Hoover's Gap, Decker Station, Chickamauga, Milton, Tullahoma, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Graysville, Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Adairsville, Cassville, New Hope Church, Big Shanty, Culp's Farm, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Chattahooche River, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Jonesboro, Savannah, Fayetteville, Averysboro, Bentonville and Smithfield. He was in the fighting through Eastern Tennessee, the Atlanta campaign, the march to the sea across Georgia, and up through the Carolinas until the armies of General Johnston surrendered. Several times he was slightly wounded, but was never absent from duty for any length of time. For many years Mr. Jellison has been an honored member of Lew Dailey Post No. 33, Grand Army of the Republic.

After the war he returned to Wells County and on October 24, 1867, married Miss Nancy J. Miller. Mrs. Jellison was born in Wells County January 11, 1848, a daughter of Henry G. Miller. Henry G. Miller's name is established in Wells County history as proprietor of one of the first grist mills in the county. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Jellison rented a farm for a year or two and then bought ninety-six acres in the midst of the green woods, and that tract has been gradually developed into one of the most productive and most highly improved places of Chester Township. Here Mr. Jellison has continued to live to the present time His wife died July 30, 1888. Four children were born to them and the only one now living is Elmer Jellison, a farmer at Mount Zion. Mrs. Jellison was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Jellison cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln on November 6, 1860, and has never waivered one jot or tittle from the principles which he at that time upheld and which have made him one of the oldest republican voters of Wells County.

George E. Steele. The City of Decatur has long had an example of the enterprise furnished by George E. Steele, as a business man and capable and straightforward citizen. Mr. Steele has been in business at Decatur for nearly a quarter of a century, and is now head of the heating and plumbing establishment on North First Street. He first went into business in 1893 with his brother, Albert N., under the firm name of A. N. Steele & Brother. For several years they dealt in wind mills and pumps, but in 1896 expanded their business as plumbers and heating workers and in 1913 Albert Steele sold his interest to his brother and retired.

George E. Steele was born in Ashland County, Ohio, July 13, 1860, and was about eighteen months old when in September, 1861, his parents removed to Adams County. He grew up here and received his early education in the local schools, and under his brother Albert learned the butcher's trade. Albert Steele was for about seven years proprietor of one of the leading meat establishments of Decatur. From 1886 to 1892

George Steele was in Colorado, at Denver and various other cities, following his trade as butcher. He returned to Decatur in 1892, and the following year became associated with his brother in business.

On coming to Adams County his parents, Levi and Charlotte (Barkley) Steele, settled in Union Township. His parents were both born in Pennsylvania and were quite young when their respective families moved to Ashland County, Ohio, where they grew up and married. Levi Steele served an apprenticeship at the tanner's trade with Martin Bender. He remained in Mr. Bender's employ for several years, and on coming to Adams County in 1861 he conducted the tannery of his relative, John Bender, while the latter was serving as a Union soldier. This tannery was noted for its fine leather products, and was conducted according to the old established principles governing the business. After the war Levi Steele took up farming, and continued a resident of Union Township until his death about 1884, when sixty-five years of age. His widow died in 1894 at the age of seventy. They were very active members of the Church of God, and a house of worship was built on their farm and a cemetery laid out there. They were among the leaders of the church and liberal supporters to its cause. Levi Steele was a republican in politics and all his sons followed him in political action. There was a large family, eight of whom grew up, all of them married and three sons and one daughter, Mrs. Ellen Mumma, are still living.

Mr. George E. Steele married at Georgetown, Illinois, Miss Golda McKinnie. She was born in Howard County, Indiana, about 1872, and was reared there. Her parents, William and Mahala (Chandler) McKinnie, are still living at Russiaville in Howard County and are now past sixty-five years of age, but retain a great deal of their physical and mental vitality. They are active members of the Christian Church and her father is now an ardent prohibitionist. Mr. and Mrs. Steele have one son, Irwin W., aged eleven years, and a student in the public schools of Decatur. He is also one of the talented performers in the Decatur Brass Band. Mrs. Steele and son are members of the Christian Church. Politically Mr. Steele is a republican. In the way of public service he was superintendent of the local waterworks for two years.

Simeon B. Fordyce was born in Adams County seventy years ago, was a youthful soldier in the Civil war, and for a half century has been identified with the county as a practical farmer, land dealer, merchant and a citizen on whom has been conferred many positions of trust and responsibility.

He is of German and Scotch ancestry. His grandparents spent their lives in Pennsylvania. John Fordyce, father of Simeon B., had a brother, David, who became a California forty-niner. Early in 1850 John Fordyce also went out to California, going around by way of Cape Horn, and he and his brother had considerable success in the gold mines of the far west. After a year John returned to Adams County, where he had settled some years previously and in 1854 made a second trip to the West. John Fordyce had left his native state of Pennsylvania and had moved to Guernsey County, Ohio, where he married Mary Brown of Scotch ancestry. Five of their children were born in Ohio and about 1845 the family came to Adams County, traveling over the rough roads into a new and sparsely settled district. They located in St. Mary's Township and here erected a log cabin home in which their three youngest children were born, Simeon B. being next to the youngest. The land was cleared up, and in time constituted a good farm.

Perhaps no family in Adams County sacrificed more to the cause of the Union than the Fordyces. In 1861 two sons of John Fordyce,

Jasper and Henry, enlisted in Company C of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. In 1862 the father decided that his services were needed at the front and he went to join the same company and regiment. At the battle of Port Gibson on the Mississippi Jasper was shot through the forearm and the muscles of the upper arm, the ball passing out through the shoulder blade. That wound crippled him so that he was incapacitated for further field duty, and spent the rest of his three years' time of enlistment as a steward in a hospital ward at Madison, Indiana. A week after the wound which incapacitated him his brother, Henry, was killed in the battle of Champion Hill. In the meantime the father, John, had reached the regiment and he was assigned to look after his dead son, and while attending to the burial of his body suffered sunstroke, so that he was discharged and sent home. John Fordyce died in February, 1866, at the age of sixty-two.

Simeon B. Fordyce was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County January 27, 1847. He was only fourteen years of age when the war broke out, and his patriotic ardor grew from day to day. He saw his two brothers go into the army, later his father, and he tried again and again to get consent to be taken as a soldier himself. Finally in October, 1863, in his sixteenth year, he was enrolled in Company C of the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry. With this regiment he saw some very arduous service, being assigned largely to scouting duty, and after the campaign which ended with the battle of Nashville his regiment was transferred to Missouri in Kansas, and did much fighting of guerillas and Indians. He was granted his honorable discharge at Madison, Indiana, being only nineteen years of age when mustered out. Thus were four gallant soldiers in the Fordyce family and Simeon was the only one who returned from the front practically unscathed.

He resumed civil life as a farmer, and later conducted a grocery store at Pleasant Mills. He gave up that business in favor of farming and in 1890 removed to Decatur, where he entered business as a grocer and conducted one of the best patronized stores in the town for about twelve years until he retired in 1902. He has also dealt extensively in farm lands in Ohio and Indiana, and he owns a well equipped small farm of his own in Root Township. His pleasant home is at 210 South Fourth Street in Decatur.

He is the type of citizen who by experience, activities and judgment the people implicitly trust. For twelve years he has served as a member of the Adams County Board of Guardians, for six years as a member of the County Board of Charities, and served two terms as a member of the city council of Decatur. Mr. Fordyce is an active republican, has served as senior vice commander of Post No. 63 Grand Army of the Republic, and for twenty-five years has been affiliated with Lodge No. 65 of the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Fordyce married Miss Mary Branderbery, a girl who grew up in the same neighborhood with him. She was born in Washington Township April 5, 1849, was well educated and for several years before her marriage taught school. She is member of the well known Branderbery family elsewhere mentioned in this publication. Mr. and Mrs. Fordyce have one daughter, Maggie. She was reared from early girlhood in Decatur, and graduated from the high school with the class of 1897. She is now the wife of Charles D. Teeple, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, but was reared and educated in Adams County. Mr. Teeple is now head of the successful clothing firm of Teeple, Branderbery & Peterson of Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple have a daughter, Alta Fordyce Teeple, born February 21, 1900. She is now a senior in the Decatur

High School and her education is to be continued in Vassar College. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple and daughter are members of the Presbyterian Church.

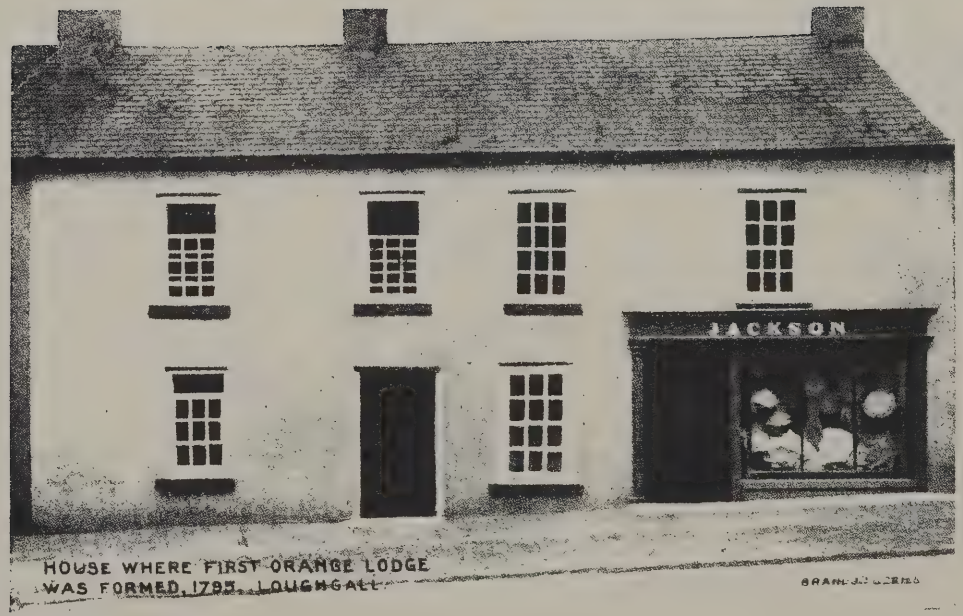
David A. Ludwig was born near Mount Joy, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1861, the son of Emanuel E. and Hannah Stager Ludwig, and now resides on his farm in Harrison Township, Wells County, one mile south and two miles west of Bluffton, Indiana. He is of German extraction, tracing his family history back to Bavaria, Germany, from which place in 1733 Daniel and Mitchell Ludwig, two brothers, sailed on the Marthouse under command of Captain Cluster, landing at Philadelphia, September 18, 1733. It was a family tradition and that through political difficulties they left their native home as they were closely related to the ruling house of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, whose present king is a Ludwig.

On landing in the new world, these early ancestors of the Ludwigs in America cast about for a location to their liking and finally settled in Oley Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania and engaged in the milling business, building what was known as the Bartolette Mill in Oley, which is still standing at this day. Later Daniel Ludwig left this place and moved to Sinking Springs, six miles west of Reading, Pennsylvania, where he purchased a farm, and lived there the remainder of his life. Daniel Ludwig and his wife were the parents of eight children. One son, Christopher, served in the Revolutionary war and was superintendent of the bread making department under General Washington at Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778. Daniel Ludwig died at the age of seventy-nine years, and his remains lie buried at Sinking Springs, Pennsylvania.

Daniel Ludwig the second, son of Daniel the first, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, June 4, 1748. He was the father of six children, having been married three times. His first wife was Elona Miller and to them were born three children. His second wife was Eva Griesmore and to them were born two children. His last wife was Elizabeth Shepert and they were the parents of one child. Daniel and his three wives all are buried at Sinking Springs.

George Ludwig, a son of Daniel the second, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1784. He was married to Rachel Wandle and they reared a family of thirteen children, five boys and eight girls. He died at his home in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1853 and was buried near his home at Reamstown, Pennsylvania.

Emanuel E. Ludwig, son of George Ludwig, was born in East Calico Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1822. On reaching the age of his majority, he was married to Hannah Stager and from this marriage the family tree of the Ludwigs was increased by nine, four boys and five girls. Emanuel E. Ludwig was throughout most of his life a general farmer, moving to Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, after his marriage and residing there until the death of his wife in 1862. In 1864 he re-married, this time forming a marital home with Miss Catherine Brant, and moved on his 200 acre farm near Millersburg, situated thirty-five miles west of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he continued his accustomed occupation for a short time, selling his farm near Millersburg to engage in the mercantile business in a mining town known as Likensville. A great misfortune befalling the mines of the town by a cave-in of the mines, and killing of a number of men, was the source of a heavy loss to him as he was carrying many of them on his books. He then sold his store and moved to Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, where he again engaged in the mercantile business, in which he continued until the year 1873 at which time he sold out and purchased a canal boat. This was the year of the great panic and again he was caught in the



HOUSE WHERE FIRST ORANGE LODGE
WAS FORMED, 1795. LOUGHGALL

maelstrom of finance losing heavily. The troubles with his boat were numerous and varied and having to wait idly in different places for a load before proceeding to his destination, always the source of loss. The boat he had purchased and from which he had hoped to re-coup his exchequer proved to be only an old one and quite unfit for service, but had been painted up for sale. Returning to Middletown with a load of lumber, he barely escaped losing boat and cargo from sinking, but after unloading the shipment, he allowed the boat to sink, but was compelled to pay for the damage done to the lumber, after which he retired to private life.

The children now living of this pioneer are Emanuel S., a merchant at Penbrook, Pennsylvania, for a number of years postmaster at East Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which place is now called Penbrook; Jerome Ludwig, a machinist residing at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Amanda Walborn, widow of Frank Walborn, living in Lancaster Township, Wells County, Indiana; Lydia, the widow of Abram Shanaman, is living at Anville, Pennsylvania; Hannah Ludwig, single, living in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and David A. Ludwig of this sketch. Emanuel A. Ludwig, died in 1882 and is buried at Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

David A. Ludwig was educated in the public schools of his native state, leaving school to make his own way in the world at a very early age. One of his first places to be employed was at the King Car Works at Middletown, Pennsylvania, where he received the sum of sixty cents per day, and paying $3.00 per week for board. Here he helped to paint the first cars run on what was known then as the Toledo, St. Louis & Hocking Valley Railroad, but which is now known as the Clover Leaf. After working there for a time, he sought employment elsewhere and soon hired to William Dickason, general repair boss for the Pennsylvania Canal Company at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, making from $2.00 to $2.25 per day. His next move brought him to Wells County, Indiana, where he was engaged as a farm laborer throughout Rock Creek Township until his marriage May 12, 1883, to Emma Raber, a daughter of William Raber and wife, of same township. The home thus formed has reared and sheltered five children, Charles, residing at Albion, Michigan; Ida, wife of Sherman Falk, of Rock Creek Township; Harry, living in Harrison Township; Mable, wife of Guy Falk, of Liberty Township, and Homer, who is still at home with his parents.

Mr. Ludwig affords one of the very fine examples of the self-made man, having secured enough of this world's goods to secure against the inconveniences of penury, all of which he has accomplished through hard and honest toil, wringing from the soil the reward due those who apply themselves as have Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig. Mrs. Ludwig is affiliated with the Reformed Church, being a member of the St. Paul's Congregation, of Rock Creek Township. In politics Mr. Ludwig has been rather independent in his voting, though inclining to the republican party in national affairs.

Samuel E. Hitchcock. A prominent insurance man of the firm Hitchcock & Fellers, Samuel E. Hitchcock was born in Butler County, Ohio, November 19, 1862, and he is a son of Henry L. and Ann (Wilcox) Hitchcock. The parents were both born in the Buckeye state, the father in Miami County and the mother in Butler County. They were married in Ohio and moved thence to Clinton County, Indiana, where he was engaged in farming operations for a time. Samuel Hitchcock, grandfather, was a graduate of William and Mary College, and was an eminent physician and surgeon, being associated with the United States Government for a number of years. The Hitchcock family was founded in Scotland and the progenitor of the name in America came

hither in the old Colonial days; representatives of the name served in the War of the Revolution. Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock, parents, are both deceased.

Samuel E. Hitchcock lived in Ohio until his twelfth year and then resided with his parents on their farm in Clinton County, Indiana, until his majority. His district school education was supplemented with a course of study in the American Normal School, at Logansport, Indiana, and for two years he was a student in the State Normal School of Indiana. He began his life work as a teacher and after teaching in the common schools for a time was principal at Binghurst, Indiana, for three years. In 1892 he was appointed principal of the Central School in Bluffton and after one year in that position he was head of the science department in the high school for two years. He then entered upon the study of law, passed the state examinations successfully, and was admitted to the Indiana bar. He was engaged in the practice of law at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, in which he served as regimental commissary sergeant on the staff of Colonel Gunders. He went with his regiment to Cuba and on his return to Bluffton he passed the civil service examination and for the five succeeding years was a local mail carrier. As lawyer and mail carrier he was interested in the insurance business and in 1905, in partnership with Walter L. Fellers, he took over the old Greek agency and they began a thriving business under the firm name of Hitchcock & Fellers. They handle all kinds of insurance and have the largest concern of its kind in the state for the size of the town.

In 1893, while a teacher, being desirous of procuring a library for Bluffton, Mr. Hitchcock devised all kinds of means to raise the necessary funds, among other things giving amateur plays. Books were purchased and the library was installed in the high school building, Mr. Hitchcock having been instrumental in getting a tax levy to pay the upkeep. He was the first treasurer of the library board and in 1904, with the financial assistance of Andrew Carnegie, who contributed $13,000 for the purpose, a splendid new library was erected. Mr. Hitchcock was a member of the building committee and for years was president of the library board. Securing this fine library for Bluffton was a splendid accomplishment and while it was not a one-man affair, still the city owes much to Mr. Hitchcock for his great enthusiasm and untiring efforts. Without his persistency and determination it is doubtful if Bluffton would have secured a library at the early day it did.

Mr. Hitchcock is one of the directors of the Wells County Bank, of the Union Savings & Trust Company and of the Bliss Hotel Company. He is a valued member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he is past master; of Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons, in which he is past high priest; Bluffton Council No. 63, Royal & Select Masters, in which he is past illustrious master; and Bluffton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, in which he is past eminent commander. He is likewise affiliated with the Scottish Rite branch of Masonry and he is a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Fort Wayne. In addition to Masonry he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Pythias. In politics Mr. Hitchcock is a republican.

December 30, 1891, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hitchcock to Miss Emma Tressing, a native of Ohio. They have one daughter, Helen, born September 14, 1898. Helen Hitchcock was graduated in the Bluffton High School as a member of the class of 1916 and she is now a sophomore in Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

The Hitchcock family are members of the Presbyterian Church, in

GEO. O. PENCE AND FAMILY

which he served on the board of trustees. Mr. Hitchcock is a man of broad human sympathy and great benevolence. Charity in its widest and best sense is practiced by him and his kindness has made smooth the way of many a weary traveler on life's journey. In his private life he is distinguished by all that marks the true gentleman. His is a noble character—one that subordinates personal ambition to public good and seeks rather the benefit of others than the aggrandizement of self. Endowed by nature with high intellectual qualities, to which have been added the discipline and embellishments of culture, his is a most attractive personality.

George O. Pence has spent his entire life within the limits of Harrison Township, Wells County, and represents a family that has been identified with this section of the state fully seventy years. He is still giving his energies to productive farming and has one of the fine farms in Harrison Township in section 35.

He was born on section 23 of the same township February 5, 1851, a son of Peter and Sarah J. (Sloan) Pence. Peter Pence was born in Hocking County, Ohio, on July 15, 1817, a son of John Pence. John Pence was a Virginian who located in Hocking County, Ohio, as early as 1798, four years before Ohio was admitted to the Union. He spent his industrious life in that section, and was the father of a large family, among them being Hannah, Eliza, Rebecca, Jane, William, Sarah, Peter, John and Gashum. Of these Rebecca was the first white child born in Hocking County, Ohio.

Peter Pence grew to maturity on the old homestead in Hocking County, and married there Sarah J. Sloan. She was born in County Armagh, Ireland, July 4, 1818, and was brought to America by her father when eight years of age, they also locating in Hocking County, Ohio. The Sloan family had lived for generations in County Armagh, Ireland, where a large stone house was handed down from generation to generation by successive members of the family. It was in this home that the first Orange Lodge was organized in Loughall, Ireland, and the great-grandfather of George O. Pence presided over that meeting. Out of that organization arose active hostilities, resulting in a battle between the Orangemen and the Catholics, and the driving of a large part of the Catholic population from that county.

While they lived in Hocking County, Ohio, five children were born to Peter Pence and wife. On May 15, 1847, they arrived with their family in Wells County, Indiana, and settled on eighty acres of land in section 23 bought in 1842, and subsequently acquired another eighty acres. Mr. Pence was a prosperous old time settler here and in politics was a republican. He died December 18, 1898. His wife passed away in 1891. She was a very active member of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church. They had ten children: Lucinda, John H., Ascher, Ellen, Phoebe, Gashum, Peter, Jr., Sarah J., Mary E. and George O. Of these three are still living. Ellen is the wife of Emanuel Griffin of Oklahoma. Mary E. is the wife of John McKeen of Bluffton, Indiana.

George O. Pence grew up on his father's farm and acquired a district school education. He lived at home until he was twenty-one and on April 12, 1874, he married Miss Emma C. Myers. She was born September 9, 1853, in Harrison Township and has spent practically all of her life there, having been educated in the district schools. She is a daughter of David Myers.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pence engaged in farming for thirty-five years, being on a farm in section 23 from which they moved

to Travisville where they lived five years. Their efforts were prospered and in 1917 they moved to their present fine farm of eighty acres in section 35, Harrison Township, and they own and operate eighty acres in section 7 and have twenty acres in Nottingham Township.

Of their children the oldest, Samuel O., was commissary sergeant in the Spanish-American war, now engaged in his trade as a millwright at Seattle, Washington. John S. is a carpenter and lives at Warren, Indiana. Lewis A. conducts a farm near Myers Chapel Church. Effie P. is the wife of Job Watson, living near La Fontaine, Indiana. Otto F. is now in the service of the new National Army. Urban M., the youngest, is also enrolled for service in the National Army.

Mr. Pence is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114 Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in politics is a republican.

Wharton W. Rogers. Wells County, Indiana, figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous divisions of the state, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development and marked advancement in the material upbuilding of this section. The county has been and is signally favored in the class of men who have contributed to its development along industrial and financial lines and in the latter connection the subject of this review demands recognition as he has been actively engaged in banking operations during practically the entire period of his career thus far. He is cashier of the Studabaker Bank at Bluffton and he is well known as a man whose business methods demonstrate the power of activity and honesty in the business world.

Wharton W. Rogers, a native son of Bluffton, Indiana, was born June 13, 1885, and he is a son of Philo and Maria (Prillaman) Rogers. The parents were born and reared in Wells County, Indiana, and the father is now deceased, having passed away in 1906. As a boy, Philo Rogers was bound out as an apprentice to Amos Curry to learn the dry goods business and he was afterward associated with Mr. Curry for years, first in the banking business and later in a hardware enterprise. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers: Lizzie M., a graduate of the Bluffton High School, is the wife of Dr. L. W. Dailey of Bluffton; and Wharton W., whose name forms the caption for this article.

After his graduation in the Bluffton High School, as a member of the class of 1903, Wharton W. Rogers was matriculated as a student in Purdue University, which excellent institution he attended for two years. He then located in the city of Indianapolis, remaining there for six months, at the end of which he returned to Bluffton and entered the Studabaker Bank as bookkeeper. Diligent application to the work in hand shortly gained him the position of assistant cashier, and in October, 1912, he became cashier of the bank, which position he has filled with marked efficiency to the present time, in 1918. He is a stockholder in the Studabaker Bank and in the Bliss Hotel Company, of which latter concern he is secretary. He is likewise secretary of the Fairview Cemetery Association and treasurer of the Wells County Red Cross Association. Mr. Rogers is a republican in politics, warmly advocating the party principles and serving as the present treasurer of the Wells County Central Committee. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knights Templar and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His religious faith coincides with the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of whose official board he is secretary.

In 1906 Mr. Rogers was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Maggie Walmer, who was graduated in the Bluffton High School and attended De Pauw University. One son was born to this union: Robert W., whose nativity occurred in May, 1908. Mrs. Rogers died November 4, 1910, and for a second wife Mr. Rogers married Lucile Lock, a daughter of Del Lock, of Bluffton. She was graduated in the Glendale, Ohio, College. They have one son, Wharton L., born March 18, 1917.

Daniel Sprang is one of the veteran business men of Decatur, has lived here nearly forty years, and has spent his life since childhood in Northeastern Indiana. His name for years was associated with merchandising at Decatur, but latterly he has been engaged in manufacturing, being interested in the manufacturing of slack barrel stock in different parts of the country.

The Sprang name is of Swiss origin. The grandfather Christian Sprang was born in Alsace Lorraine. He served as a soldier under the great Napoleon in the climax of that soldier's career, from 1812 to 1815. He was once slightly wounded. He married a girl from Alsace Lorraine and settled down to farming. All their children were born in the old country, named Frederick, Jacob, Godfrey, Sarah and Christian, Jr. While most of these children were still young the family in 1822 embarked on a sailing vessel at Havre, France, and after a voyage of several weeks landed in New York City. From there they went on west to Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, where Christian Sprang, Sr., resumed his work as a farmer. He was one of the pioneers of that section and he lived to see his family well provided with the comforts of life. His wife died in Wayne County and some years later he passed away at the home of his son Christian in Ashland County, Ohio, at the age of eighty-seven. He was a Lutheran and reared his family in the same faith, and after coming to America he became a voter of the democratic party. All his sons and daughters grew up, married in Ohio, and all except Christian spent their last years in that state.

Christian Sprang, Jr., was born in Alsace Lorraine in 1816 and was six years of age when he came to this country. In Ashland County he married Sarah Hanver. She was born in the same year and in the same province of France, and she came with her parents to America also in the same year though on a separate vessel. The Hanvers located in Ashland County, Ohio, where she grew up and remained until after her marriage. Christian Sprang and wife after their marriage settled down on a farm near Mohicanville in Ashland County and all their children were born in that locality. The record of these two children is as follows: Fred, who died leaving a family; Magdalena, who married Frederick Hyde and died in Allen County, Indiana, leaving children; Jacob, who is a retired farmer in the State of Kansas and has a family of three daughters and one son; Philip, who died in Allen County leaving two children; Godfrey, a resident of Michigan is father of one daughter; Sarah, who lives in Defiance County, Ohio, widow of John Kuhn and mother of two sons and one daughter; Daniel, who is next to the youngest of the family; and Simon P., a farmer in Allen County, who is married and has children.

Mr. Daniel Sprang was born in Ashland County, Ohio, August 22, 1854. When he was twelve years of age the family left the scenes of his birth and moved to Allen County, Indiana, locating near Poe postoffice. The land which they acquired had been only partially improved, and it remained for the energies of Christian Sprang and his sons to put it into a productive state of cultivation and a home of modest comforts. This old farm is now owned by two grandsons of Christian Sprang. Christian Sprang died in Allen County in 1875 when nearly fifty-nine years of age,

and his widow died later at the home of her daughter in Defiance County, Ohio, at the age of eighty-seven. She was an active member of the Evangelical Church.

Daniel Sprang finished his education in Allen County, had a high school course, and having wisely improved his early opportunities he qualified as a teacher and followed that vocation for four years. While living in Allen County he married for his first wife Alice Lichtenwalter. She was born in that county in 1857. She died at her home in Decatur May 2, 1895. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Sprang's only child was Ella, who graduated from the city high school of Decatur, and was for several years a music teacher. She was twice married, her first husband being Harry Bell, and by that union there is a daughter, Margaret, now the wife of Willard Rohrer, living in Michigan. For her second husband she married C. B. Wilcox. Mrs. Wilcox died June 20, 1916.

For his present wife Mr. Sprang married Miss Lucy J. Vail. She was born in Ossian, Wells County, Indiana, May 2, 1864, and is member of the well known Vail family elsewhere referred to in this publication. She was well educated, and for eighteen years was one of the best known teachers in Adams and Wells counties.

When Mr. Daniel Sprang came to Decatur in 1879 he entered the dry goods business in partnership with Mr. Edington. In 1882 he and Charles F. True bought Mr. Edington's interest, and together they conducted a high class store on Second Street in Decatur until 1899. Failing health compelled Mr. Sprang to retire from this business at the time and he then sold out to Mr. True. After a year of rest and recuperation he put some of his capital into business with Mr. A. T. Vail, and they took up the manufacture of barrel stock, at first at Markel, Indiana. Later they conducted plants at Warren and Bloomfield, Ohio, at Linesville, Pennsylvania, but at present they conduct their plant and find their principal supply of raw material in Arkansas and Missouri. Mr. Vail is the active manager of the business and remains on the ground, while Mr. Sprang still keeps his home at Decatur.

Mr. Sprang is one of the older members of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Decatur. He has various local interests and is one of the men most frequently called upon for cooperation with worthy public enterprises. He has served as noble grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as district deputy, has filled various chairs in the Masonic Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter, and is a member of Mizpah Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Fort Wayne. He and his wife are active in the Methodist Episcopal Church and he has been treasurer of the church since 1889 and many years a trustee.

William B. Little. From pioneer times to the present hardly any family in Wells County has been better known and more prominent than the Littles. William B. Little has spent nearly all his life of seventy-five years in this county and much of his experience has connected him with county affairs, so that there is probably no man in the entire county better posted on the official records and county business in general. Mr. Little is a former county assessor, and whether an official or in a private capacity has been one of the citizens chiefly influential in making Bluffton and the county measure up to the best ideals and progress.

Mr. Little was born in Monroe County, New York, April 16, 1842, a son of Horace W. and Susan (Burtis) Little. His father was born and reared in the same county and state, while his mother was a native of Dutchess County, New York. Grandfather Elijah Little was a native

of Massachusetts, went to Monroe County, New York, when a young man, married there, and about 1860 came out to Wells County, Indiana, where some years before he had acquired more than 1,000 acres of land in sections 29 and 32, range 13, and also eighty acres in section 30. Horace W. Little had come to Wells County, Indiana, in 1845, building a cabin on the north half of section 32. He lived here only a short time, and then returned to New York, but in 1856 came again to Wells County. Then in 1863 he went back to New York State, where he spent his last years. By his first wife there were two children, William B. and Elijah H. The latter was born in 1844 and died in 1878.

William B. Little was educated largely in the public schools of New York State. He married there October 23, 1871, Dora C. Ellis. In 1875 Mr. Little came to Indiana and located on the family farm in Wells County. During his early life he had some experience as a teacher. From the time he removed to Bluffton in 1892 Mr. Little had much to do with the surveyor's office at the courthouse, and one of the main qualifications which entitled him to the confidence of the citizens in his election to the office of county assessor in the fall of 1910 was his thorough familiarity with every branch of the public records. He entered upon the duties of that office January 1, 1911. For six years Mr. Little was a member of the city council. That was a period of Bluffton's greatest advancement and growth. During that time much street paving was laid and five miles of sewerage was constructed. Mr. Little had active superintendence of the sanitary sewerage section.

Mr. Little has one son, DeForest Little, who was born October 30, 1878. He is a graduate of the Bluffton High School and is now deputy postmaster at Bluffton. Mr. William Little is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has always been interested in local politics as a democrat. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted May 3, 1864, in the navy, and serving until the close of the war. He has membership in Lew Daily Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

I. A. Merriman has had a long and active career in business affairs at Bluffton, and is now engaged in the real estate and loan business, with a large clientage among those people who appreciate his trustworthy judgment and thoroughly reliable business principles.

Mr. Merriman represents one of the old and prominent families of Wells County. His grandfather William B. Merriman was born in Wayne County, Ohio, November 22, 1816, a son of Elijah and Mary (McCoy) Merriman. The parents of William B. had come from Fayette County, Pennsylvania, to Ohio just nine days before William was born. William B. Merriman first acquired an interest in Wells County in 1844 when he bought eighty acres and in 1851 he became a permanent resident in section 21 of Lancaster Township. He was a skillful carpenter and followed his trade throughout Wells County for a period of over thirty years. He made his home in Lancaster Township until 1900, when he removed to Bluffton, where both he and his wife died in advanced years. William B. Merriman married November 12, 1838, Elizabeth Knight, who was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1820. William B. Merriman was an active democrat and cast his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836. He and his wife had six children, and five of them are still living: Mrs. Lucinda Dailey, widow of S. M. Dailey, living in Missouri; Mary Ann, widow of Sutton Patte; Ezra D.; L. Mason, who lives in Arkansas; and William H., of Bluffton.

Ezra D. Merriman, father of the Bluffton business man, was born

in Wayne County, Ohio, and was reared on the old farm in Lancaster Township. He lived at home until he was twenty-five years of age, when he married Sarah Kirkendall of Whitley County, Indiana. After a brief residence in Bluffton they removed to a farm in Lancaster Township and that was their home until the death of the mother on December 12, 1889. She had three children: W. H. Merriman, a grocery merchant at Bluffton; I. A. Merriman; and Don K., who died at the age of two years.

I. A. Merriman was reared on a farm until he was twenty years of age, and received his early education in district schools and had one term in the Bluffton High School. At the age of sixteen he began working for himself on a farm, but when twenty-one he came to Bluffton and engaged in the restaurant business. He conducted a restaurant and bakery at Bluffton for a period of twenty years. Since then he has been in the real estate and loan business.

June 19, 1898, he married Miss Ida B. Miller, daughter of Reuben Miller. Mrs. Merriman was born in Wells County and was educated in the public schools. They have two bright and interesting children: Jennie B., the older, was born September 21, 1900, graduated from the Bluffton High School in 1917, and is now a student in the Woman's College at Oxford, Ohio. The other child, Lester M., was born April 5, 1902, completed the course of the common schools in 1917. The family are active members of the Baptist Church in which Mr. Merriman is a trustee and assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. The daughter is a finished musician for one of her years, and plays the pipe organ in the church. The boy is also well known in local musical circles as a singer. Mr. Merriman is a democrat but has never sought office of any kind and is entirely devoted to his business, his family and his church.

Samuel Gehrett. Among the citizens of Wells County whose past and present record entitles them to a share in the credit now being paid the American farmer as one of the principal upholders of liberty and national resources, is Mr. Samuel Gehrett, whose productive and well cultivated estate of eighty acres lies in section 16 of Nottingham Township. Mr. Gehrett and family get their daily mail delivery over Rural Route No. 2 out of Keystone.

Mr. Gehrett was born on section 12 in Nottingham Township November 18, 1858, and is member of an old and prominent family of the county. His parents were Samuel and Sarah (King) Gehrett. His father was born in Ohio, married there, and in the early days came to Wells County and bought land in section 11 of Nottingham Township, where he spent the rest of his days. He died in 1862, and his wife passed away in the same year. Of their ten children one died in infancy, and those living today are Amos, Noah, George, Henry, Sarah and Samuel.

Samuel Gehrett was eight years old when his father died and he grew up in the home of his uncle David King. He remained with Mr. King until he was eighteen and had such advantages as the local schools offered and for three months attended school at Ridgeville, Indiana. He acquired a practical knowledge of farming by experience and after his marriage he went to farming for himself.

His first wife was Etna Henly, who died leaving one daughter, Bertha, now the wife of Andrew Gottschalk. His second wife was Rachel Tappy, daughter of Simon Tappy. The children of this union are Hugh and Homer, both graduates of the Petroleum High School and now married and living in homes of their own in Nottingham Township. Mr. Gehrett married for his third wife Lucy Kemper, a native of Ohio.

They have one daughter, Magdalene, born May 15, 1907, and now a student in the Petroleum public schools. The family are members of the United Brethren Church, and Mr. Gehrett is one of the church trustees and he and his wife take an active part in all the church affairs. The people of Nottingham Township have always esteemed his judgment and ability and for six years they had the benefit of his services as township trustee. Politically he is a democrat.

JOSEPH E. BENNETT. Among Chester Township's substantial citizens, no one is better known or more highly respected than Joseph E. Bennett an extensive farmer and grower of high grade stock. For thirty-six years he has been a resident of Wells County and has followed farm pursuits in a thorough and intelligent manner.

Joseph E. Bennett was born in Huntington County, Indiana, on his father's farm in Wayne Township, August 10, 1862. His parents were Isaac and Mary (Fullhart) Bennett. The father was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Ohio and they were married in the latter state and in 1837 came as pioneers to Jefferson Township, Huntington County, Indiana. Mr. Bennett finally bought a tract of wild land three miles west of Mount Etna, Indiana. It was so heavily timbered that he had to clear a spot before he could get a site on which to build the usual little log cabin of pioneer days. The location was in the depths of the woods, so far from the nearest mill, at Fort Wayne, that frequently four days were consumed in making the trip back and forth. In those early days his wife and children kept themselves closely shut within the cabin while he was absent, as the surrounding timber held deer, wolves and even bear. He blazed the first road that led to civilization there. He was an industrious, hard-working man and in time improved his property and put up new buildings and made a comfortable home. He was intensely loyal to his government, however, and when the Civil war came on he entered the army, only to fall a victim, in 1862. He was the father of seven sons and three daughters and died without ever seeing his youngest son. The mother of Joseph E. Bennett, a noble woman, kept her family together, but when she died in 1874 they were separated and each one had to find a new home. Those living in 1917 are the following: Sarah, who is the widow of T. A. Ellis; Silas, who lives at Rossville, Illinois; John, William and Joseph E., all living in Wells County, Indiana; and Isaac, who lives at Robison, Illinois.

Joseph E. Bennett tenderly preserves the memory of a father he was never permitted to see, and equally that of his self-sacrificing mother, from whom he parted when twelve years. She taught him to be honest and industrious and under her discipline he attended school and worked for farmers near his old home until he was nineteen years old and then came to Wells County. Here he entered the employ of farmers and worked steadily for a number of years for others before acquiring land for himself.

Mr. Bennett was married in 1887, to Miss Mary Miller, who died without children, in 1910. His second marriage was to Mrs. May (Swearinger) Noble, widow of George Noble. They have a finely improved farm of 155 acres in Chester Township, Mr. Bennett having done much improving and he and wife now have one of the beautiful farms in this neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are active members and liberal supporters of the Christian Church at Chester Center and he is one of the trustees. In politics he is a republican. He is a stockholder in the Poneto Elevator.

ROBERT K. SOUDER. Americans are beginning to realize the moral as well as the historical significance of genealogical foundations. A nation

which relies upon the records of its homes for its national character, cannot afford to ignore the value of genealogical investigation, as one of the truest sources of patriotism. The love of home inspires the love of country. There is a wholesome influence in genealogical research which cannot be over-estimated. Moreover there is a deep human interest to it.

Martin Souder, founder of the Souder family in America, was a native of England, where he was reared and married and whence he immigrated to the United States in an early day. He and his wife settled in New Jersey and there resided until about 1835, when they emigrated to Wells County, Indiana, here purchasing a tract of 450 acres of land, on which the only improvement was a diminutive log cabin. He cleared the land and improved the same and resided on it until his demise. He was active in politics and was a man of influence in his home community. Mrs. Souder died in Rock Creek Township. She bore her husband one son, Robert, whose birth occurred in New Jersey, February 14, 1827. He was twenty-two years of age on his arrival in Wells County and here he married Elizabeth Watson, who was born in England and came to America with her parents at the age of thirteen years: she was reared to maturity and educated in Rock Creek Township. After marriage they located in Lancaster Township, where they passed the rest of their lives. They were the parents of five children, three of whom died in infancy: Alice married Andrew Reed and is now deceased; and Thomas M. is the next in line of descent. He was reared on his parents' farm in Lancaster Township and there attended the district schools. He married Lydia M. Kunkel, a daughter of Michael and Mary (Kleinknecht) Kunkel. His birth occurred in Lancaster Township, July 8, 1852. He was a farmer during the greater part of his active career. The following children were born to him and his wife: George T., Robert K., Minnie, wife of Earl Waugh, and Hugh M. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Souder are still living, and are now residents of Bluffton.

Robert K. Souder was born on the old homestead in Lancaster Township, Wells County, Indiana, December 6, 1880. As a boy he assisted his father on the farm and attended the local schools. At the age of fifteen years he came to Bluffton, attended high school here for a time, and then became associated with his uncle, W. A. Kunkel, in different lines of work. In recent years they have had extensive interests in the oil fields of Indiana, Illinois and Oklahoma, and Mr. Souder has spent much of his time as superintendent of these interests in Oklahoma. He is a good mixer, is well liked by his fellow men and is recognized as one of the prosperous and honorable citizens of Wells County.

In 1911 Mr. Souder was united in marriage to Miss Zada Sprowl, a daughter of George M. and Kittie (Johnston) Sprowl, residents of Warren, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Souder have one daughter, Janet Craig.

Mr. Souder is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He has for many years past been a prominent citizen of Bluffton and his activity in business affairs, his co-operation in public interests and his zealous support of all objects that he believes will contribute to the material, social or moral improvement of the community keeps him in the foremost rank of those to whom the city owes its development. His life has been characterized by upright honorable principles and his genial manner wins him the kind regard of all with whom he comes in contact.

David M. Lowdermilk. For many years a resident of the Village of Liberty Center, David M. Lowdermilk is a man of recognized ability

and worth, and by his careful attention to those things that contribute to the welfare and progress of society has shown himself a public-spirited and useful member of his community. A son of the late Alfred B. Lowdermilk, he was born in Huntington County, Indiana, near Warren, July 15, 1875.

A native of Randolph County, North Carolina, Alfred B. Lowdermilk was there reared and educated. Soon after the close of the Civil war, he came with his family to Hamilton County, Indiana, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. Moving to Huntington County, this state, in 1873, he was for fifteen years a resident of Salamonie Township. In 1888 he settled in Liberty Township, Wells County, and there resided until his death, April 15, 1910. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary J. Cox, was born in North Carolina, and is now living in Liberty Center. Seven children were born of their union, namely: Luella, widow of William Kain, of Liberty Center; Anna, wife of George W. Niblick; Emma and Rosa, deceased; David M., with whom this brief sketch is chiefly concerned; John E., of Frankfort, Indiana; and Maggie, wife of Charles O. Curran, of Liberty Center.

Brought up in Wells County, Indiana, David M. Lowdermilk was educated in the public schools, and as a young man became familiar with the various branches of agriculture. Leaving at the age of twenty years, he followed farming to some extent, and for many years operated a threshing machine, carrying on an extensive and lucrative business with the farmers of Wells County, and at present is one of the largest hay dealers in Northern Indiana.

Mr. Lowdermilk married, in 1900, Anna Michael. She passed to the life beyond January 17, 1917, leaving two children, Herman and Louis. A stanch advocate of the principles of the democratic party, Mr. Lowdermilk is prominent in public affairs, and as candidate for county treasurer received a goodly number of the votes cast. Fraternally he is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of the Improved Order of Red Men, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 747, and Loyal Order of Moose, Bluffton Lodge No. 242.

James A. McBride. In view of the nomadic spirit which dominates the American public and causes its citizens to wander restlessly about from one place to another it is most gratifying to come in contact with a man who has passed practically his entire life in the place where he was born and reared. Mr. McBride is a public-spirited citizen and has served his community in various official positions of trust and responsibility. He has been county coroner, was treasurer of Wells County for a term of four years, and is now devoting the major portion of his time and attention to the management of his fine undertaking and furniture establishment at Bluffton.

James Alfred McBride was born in Bluffton, Indiana, December 13, 1869, and he is a son of William Warren and Mary (Miller) McBride. The father was born at Salem, in Montgomery County, Ohio, December 24, 1838, and he was summoned to the life eternal in Bluffton, on the 30th of June, 1909. He was a son of William and Barbara (Harbaugh) McBride, who were natives of Lewiston, Pennsylvania, later moving to Ohio, whence they emigrated to the State of Indiana and located in Bluffton, Wells County, February 22, 1841, at which early day this place was a mere hamlet. Here Mr. McBride established a furniture and undertaking business, which has continued down through four generations of the name. William McBride was born in 1805 and he died May 15, 1871. He was a stanch democrat in politics and in religious

faith was a devout Methodist. His cherished and devoted wife, whose maiden name was Barbara Harbaugh, was born in 1813, and passed to the life eternal November 3, 1853.

William Warren McBride grew to maturity in Bluffton and at an early age was enrolled as a pupil in the first subscription school taught in Wells County. On leaving school he entered his father's store and by diligent application soon became expert in the business he was to follow all his life. After his father's demise he became sole proprietor of the business and extended the same until it became known as one of the substantial mercantile establishments of Wells County. Mr. McBride was one of the honorable and upright citizens who helped materially to build up this section of the state. His word was as good as his bond. He was a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party and was elected coroner of Wells County, serving in that capacity with the utmost efficiency until 1904. Fraternally, he was a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his religious faith coincided with the doctrines set forth by the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he was an active worker. He married Mary Miller, December 5, 1861, and to them were born the following children: Mary E., born January 8, 1863, was the wife of H. H. Deam at the time of her death, on the 30th of September, 1902; James A. is the subject of this review; and Maude, born April 22, 1876, is now a resident of Bluffton. Mrs. McBride was a woman of attractive personality and she is affectionately remembered by all who knew her.

A native of Bluffton, as previously noted, James Alfred, or "Fred" McBride, as he is better known, has spent his entire life in this city. As a boy he attended the public schools and the high school of Bluffton and he initiated his business career as an assistant in his father's store. He early familiarized himself with the furniture and undertaking business and on his father's death inherited the large establishment built up by him. In 1915 the old furniture store that was built in 1863, was torn down and a fine, up-to-date structure was erected on the west side of Main Street, opposite the Elks' Home. In order to render his services more valuable to the community he pursued a course of study in an embalming school in Chicago, being graduated in the same. Like his father and grandfather before him, he is a democrat in politics and he has served with marked efficiency as county coroner and as treasurer of Wells County, retiring from the latter office January 1, 1917, after a term of four years. Mr. McBride is a man of marked enterprise and initiative. Strictly honest and straightforward in his business methods, he commands the unalloyed confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. He was reared a Methodist and is a prominent member of the local church of that denomination. Fraternally, he affiliates with the time-honored Masonic order, being Thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Shrine. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Improved Order of Red Men, and Junior Order of American Mechanics.

In 1901 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. McBride to Miss Cora B. Prillaman, a daughter of Lewis Prillaman, a substantial farmer and an ex-county commissioner of Wells County. This union has been prolific of one son, William Warren McBride, who was born in Bluffton October 20, 1895. He was graduated in the local high school and in an embalming school in Chicago and was associated with his father in business, being the fourth generation in this line. Young Mr. McBride, like his immediate ancestors, was a credit to the business life of this community and he well upholds the prestige of the honored name he bears.

He is now in the United States Army, being a member of the Hospital Corps.

GEORGE W. WATSON. The Watsons came to Wells County as early settlers and for many years have been identified with the agricultural development of this section. A worthy representative of this fine old family is found in George W. Watson, who was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, April 7, 1855, and is a son of John M. and Elenore (Winfield) Watson. Both parents were born in Pennsylvania and went to Ohio in their youth and were married there and about 1850 came to Wells County.

When the parents of Mr. Watson came to Indiana they found pioneer conditions prevailing through all this part of the state. There were many tracts of land yet uncleared and wild game was plentiful where now towns stand and richly cultivated fields lie. They located on a tract of land in Nottingham Township and the father had to clear a spot on which to erect his log cabin. He developed a fine farm here and this continued the homestead and here the parents died. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Of their eleven children nine grew to maturity and the following survive: Mark, who is a resident of Domestic, Indiana; George W.; John E., who lives at Vera Cruz; Amanda, deceased, was the wife of Ephraim Reynolds.

George W. Watson was reared in his native township and obtained his education in the public schools. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-three years old and then was married and settled on his present home farm of eighty acres. He also owned another farm of eighty acres located in Adams County, Indiana, which he sold in 1918. Mr. Watson has been a farmer all his mature life and carries on his operations with the good judgment that experience has ripened.

Mr. Watson was married September 30, 1877, to Miss Sarah A. Gottschalk, who was born on a farm adjoining the one on which she now lives, June 18, 1851, and is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Heller) Gottschalk. Both were born in Ohio and were brought to Indiana in childhood and grew up and were married here. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have three children: Lawrence E., who was born April 3, 1878, is a buyer of horses and lives in Bluffton; Lewis E., who was born January 10, 1880, is in the auto truck sales business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Ada M., who was born December 8, 1882, is the wife of Ervin D. Miller and they reside in Nottingham Township. There are eleven grandchildren in the family.

In politics Mr. Watson is a republican. With his family he belongs to the Evangelical Church which is situated not far distant. Both he and wife are active members and he is one of the church trustees and a class leader. They are kind, friendly, hospitable people and have a wide circle of acquaintances and take part in the pleasant social affairs which bind the neighborhood together.

ALBERT N. STEELE. In the course of a long and active career Albert N. Steele handled many business interests and responsibilities in Adams County, and is still to some extent engaged in looking after his private affairs and investments, even though he regards himself as retired. He is well known throughout the length and breadth of Adams County, where he has spent most of his life. He is enjoying the comforts of a well appointed home at 503 West Madison Street.

Mr. Steele is of old Pennsylvania stock. His grandfather, Jacob Steele, was a Pennsylvanian and when his son, Levi, father of Albert, was quite young moved with wagons and teams to Ashland County, Ohio,

The grandfather developed a tract of new land, cleared away the forest, and there he and his wife died when they were not yet seventy years of age. They had a large family, the sons being Levi, Adam, John, George, Samuel, Jacob, Jr., and David. Among the daughters were Mrs. Maria Boyd, Sophia Stoler and Mrs. David Stiefers. Of the sons Levi and David Steele were twins and were born February 9, 1818. They grew up in Ashland County, and David became a carpenter while Levi learned the trade of tanner. In Ashland County he worked at his trade and married Sarah Valentine, who was born in Pennsylvania February 15, 1819, but was reared in Ashland County, where her parents spent many years of their lives. After marriage Levi Steele and wife continued to reside in Ashland County, and all their children were born there. In the fall of 1861 they moved to Adams County, Indiana, and located in the woods in Union Township. Levi had charge of a tannery for George Benders, his son-in-law, during the Civil war, and at the same time managed to put in some hard work in clearing up his forty acres of land. Later he bought another place of sixty acres, and lived on that farm until his death in 1885 at the age of sixty-seven. His widow survived him and died at Decatur at the age of seventy-seven. Both were very active and prominent members of the Church of God and did much to sustain that denomination in the county. Levi Steele was a republican in politics.

Albert N. Steele, who was born in Ashland County, Ohio, March 21, 1842, was one of a family three sons and one daughter of which are still living, all in Adams County, and one, Samuel L., died in the army. Mr. Steele was nineteen years of age when the family came to Adams County, and besides the lessons he learned from books and schools in his native locality he acquired a full and thorough proficiency in the tanning trade. He worked as a tanner when all leather was tanned by the old processes, including a liberal use of tanbark. For some years he worked as a tanner for Levi Bartlett, was in business as a partner with him, and learned the butcher's trade. In 1875 he engaged in the butcher business with a shop on Second Street in Decatur, and a year later Mr. Bartlett became his partner. After two years Mr. Steele sold his interests and subsequently engaged in the wind mill and pump business, and still later took in his brother, George E., as a partner. They added a plumbing department, and Mr. Steele was one of the familiar figures of this branch of business in Adams County for fully thirty years. In 1911 he sold his interests to his brother George and then retired to look after his private affairs. Mr. Steele owns five fine residence properties in Decatur. In politics he is a republican. He has been a member of the Church of God since boyhood.

His first wife was Julia Stephens, a member of the Church of God. She was born in Pennsylvania but was reared and educated at Moline, Illinois, where she lived in the home of an uncle, George Stephens. Mrs. Steele died at Decatur in the prime of life at the age of thirty-three. She left no children, and was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For his second wife Mr. Steele married at Decatur Mrs. Elizabeth Marquart. She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, February 19, 1842, was educated there, and her first husband was Jacob Marquart. Mrs. Steele died August 15, 1914. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Anna M., who was born in 1872 and was reared and educated in Decatur. She married Samuel Laman of Adams County. Mr. Laman is now deceased, and he left a valuable estate worth more than $25,000. Mrs. Laman had two children, Neva and Naomi, aged fourteen and eleven years, respectively, and now attending school at

Battle Creek, Michigan. Mr. Steele is guardian and trustee for these two girls and also for their property.

HARRY R. MOLTZ. It is not possible to overestimate the value of an active and directing intelligence as a factor in business success or advancement in any line. Without this quality, no man, however skilled or however industrious, can expect to attain the full rewards and achievements that constitute even a reasonable degree of commercial achievement.

This quality has been a preeminent trait of one of Decatur's oldest and best known business men, Harry R. Moltz. Mr. Moltz is now secretary and treasurer and is giving most of his time to the business of the Decatur Produce Company. For a number of years he was also a dry goods merchant at Decatur. He possesses a fine and active mind and his superior judgment in business affairs has brought him a high position of esteem among his fellow associates, by whom he is frequently consulted.

The Decatur Produce Company was organized and incorporated in 1905. It is a highly successful business and one of the factors in securing a prompt and equitable distribution of farm and dairy products between the producer and consumer. The business has enjoyed a steady growth and prosperity, and it now has a large plant 80x100 feet, situated with access both to the Erie and Clover Leaf railway tracks. The plant is well adapted for its purposes, one part being for general storage and handling and another equipped with refrigeration facilities. This is perhaps the chief medium in Adams County through which the butter, eggs and poultry raised in the surrounding districts are concentrated and sent to market. The company ships these products everywhere, though New York is the main market. On the average they send out about two carload of eggs every week and a carload of poultry. The entire management and direction of the business is through Mr. Moltz, secretary and treasurer of the company. The other two officers, W. B. Frisinger, president, lives at Rockford, Ohio, while the vice president, J. L. Mosur, is also a non-resident.

Mr. Moltz is also a factor in the same line of business at Bluffton, where he is president of the Berling & Moltz Company, which operates a large warehouse and plant handling produce. The business at Bluffton has been in existence for about ten years.

Harry R. Moltz was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1866, and received most of his early training in the schools at Van Wert, Fulton County, Ohio. When he was quite a young man in 1891 he came to Decatur, and here for twenty-one years was prominently engaged in the dry goods business, most of the time as president of the Kuebler-Moltz Company, now the Kuebler Company.

Mr. Moltz is a son of George W. and Mary (Hull) Moltz, both natives of Pennsylvania and married at Republic, Ohio. After their marriage they settled at Van Wert, where the father spent his active life as a dry goods merchant. He died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife passed away in Van Wert in 1868 when in the prime of life. They were active members of the Lutheran Church.

Harry L. Moltz married at Decatur Anna Dailey, who was reared and educated here, where her parents were well known residents for many years and her mother is still living. Mrs. Moltz is active in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Moltz is affiliated with the Subordinate and Encampment degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a Blue Lodge Mason and a member of the Con-

history at Fort Wayne. Politically he is identified with the republican party.

JOHN W. COLLINS. Farming and stockraising have proved profitable industries as they have been carried on by John W. Collins, who is one of the substantial men of Wells County, who owns many acres of fertile land here, all of which has been acquired through his own industry and good judgment. Mr. Collins was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, May 10, 1854. His parents were Noah S. and Sarah (Cox) Collins. The father was born in Ross County, Ohio, July 24, 1823, and the mother in the same county and state, October 17, 1823.

After their marriage, Noah S. Collins and his wife moved to Pickaway County, Ohio, and still later to Madison County in the same state, and there Mr. Collins died in May, 1876, and his widow in November, 1907. They were most worthy people and were faithful members of the United Brethren Church. Of their eight children but two survive, John W. and R. F., the latter being a resident of Fayette County, Ohio.

John W. Collins obtained his education in the public schools in Ohio and remained with his parents until he was twenty years old and then came to Indiana. He soon found that the farmers here had great need of strong, industrious, willing young men and without difficulty found employment and through prudence and continued industry for a number of years, finally found himself in a position to invest in land and he continued to invest until at the present day he owns 100 acres of some of the best farm land in Harrison Township, which is his home farm, and 160 acres situated in Nottingham Township, Wells County. He has made many substantial improvements and all his land is exceedingly valuable. General farming and stockraising have engaged his attention and he has been so successful that he is considered one of the best judges of stock in this section.

Mr. Collins has been twice married. His first wife, who was Maggie Tuttle, was born in Wells County, Indiana, and died here July 29, 1879. She was the mother of two children, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Collins was married July 14, 1881, to Miss Emma Howard. She was born in Jackson County, Ohio, December 4, 1855, and was about ten years old when her parents brought her to Wells County and she attended the public schools in Harrison Township. To Mr. and Mrs. Collins the following children have been born: Bessie, who resides with her parents; Leroy, who assists his father, is a graduate of the business college at Bluffton; Minnie A., who is the wife of Roy Hendricks, a farmer in Adams County, Indiana; Lloyd, who is a farmer on his father's land in Nottingham Township; and Howard, who was a farmer in Harrison Township, died in October, 1917. Mr. Collins has seventeen grandchildren.

Mr. Collins comes of an old democratic family and all his life has given his political support to this organization but has never desired public office.

DANIEL T. BRINNEMAN. There are turning points in every man's life called opportunity. Taken advantage of they mean ultimate success. The career of Daniel T. Brinneman is a striking illustration of the latter statement. Diligent and ever alert for his chance of advancement, he has progressed steadily until he is recognized today as one of the prominent citizens of Bluffton, where he is president and treasurer of the Bluffton Improvement Company and the present efficient incumbent of the office of county recorder of Wells County. He is held in high esteem by his fellow men, who honor him for his native ability and for his fair and straightforward career.

The founder of the Brinneman family in Wells County, Indiana, was Melakiah Brinneman, a native of the State of Pennsylvania, whence he emigrated to the Hoosier state. His son, Cornelius, was born in section 16 Chester Township, Wells County, and there grew to maturity and was educated. He married Maria A. Bruce and to them were born five children, two of whom died in infancy; the others, living in 1917, are: Charles W. A., a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Bertha M., now a resident of California; and Daniel T., of this review. Mrs. Maria A. Brinneman passed away July 20, 1916.

Daniel Theron Brinneman was born on a farm in Chester Township, Wells County, the date of his nativity being October 10, 1876. He lived in the vicinity of his birth until 1887, in which year the family home was established in the City of Indianapolis, where he attended school until he was twelve years old. At that tender age he began to make his own living, working at different things for several years. He also provided for his widowed mother and among other things he learned in the capital city was the barber's trade. In 1895 he returned to Wells County and located in Bluffton, where he worked in different barber shops until 1906, in which year he purchased a shop and operated the same for about one year. Disposing of his shop in 1907, he went to Michigan for the improvement of his health and remained in that state for four months. He then returned to Bluffton, bought another barber shop and conducted it for nearly a year. In 1909 he engaged in the real estate business, in partnership with the late John W. Tribolet and after the latter's death took over the entire business. Three years from that time he purchased the Wandell Barber Shop, which he conducted for six months, eventually selling the same. In the spring of 1914 he was nominated on the democratic ticket for the office of county recorder. He was nominated by 1,259 votes, and he assumed office January 1, 1916. He is a conscientious worker and has proved himself well fitted for the responsible position he holds. In 1917 he organized the Bluffton Improvement Company for the purpose of buying, improving and selling real estate, and of this concern he is president and treasurer. Mrs Brinneman is vice president and Mary Crum secretary.

September 12, 1911, Mr. Brinneman married Miss Elva Randall, a daughter of Franklin Randall, a prominent farmer in Lancaster Township, Wells County. Mrs. Brinneman is a graduate of the Craigville High School and of the Bluffton Business College. Two children are the result of this union: Helen, aged six, and Franklin, aged three.

Mr. Brinneman is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias and of Minnetonka Tribe No. 82, Improved Order of Red Men. His interest in political questions is deep and sincere and he gives an earnest support to democratic principles, believing that the platform of that party contains the best elements of good government. Mr. Brinneman is absolutely a self-made man and for that reason his success in life is the more gratifying to contemplate.

T. Frank Brown. One of the best improved farms in Chester Township, Wells County, is that owned by T. Frank Brown, a representative citizen and successful farmer and stockman. Mr. Brown was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, July 6, 1852, and is a son of William and Harriet (Johnson) Brown.

William Brown was born in 1812, in Guernsey County, Ohio, where his parents had settled when they came from Ireland. He was married in Muskingum County, Ohio, to Harriet Johnson, who was born October 3, 1817, in Maryland, but grew to womanhood in Muskingum County. They became the parents of fourteen children, eleven of whom grew

to maturity, but T. Frank Brown is the only one living in Indiana. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian Church. The old farm in Guernsey County consisted of 400 acres, and William Brown also carried on a tanning business. He was a man of sterling character and superior judgment, was stanch in his support of the republican party and was frequently elected to responsible public offices. He was township trustee and school director and for nine years was a county commissioner. His death occurred July 1, 1890.

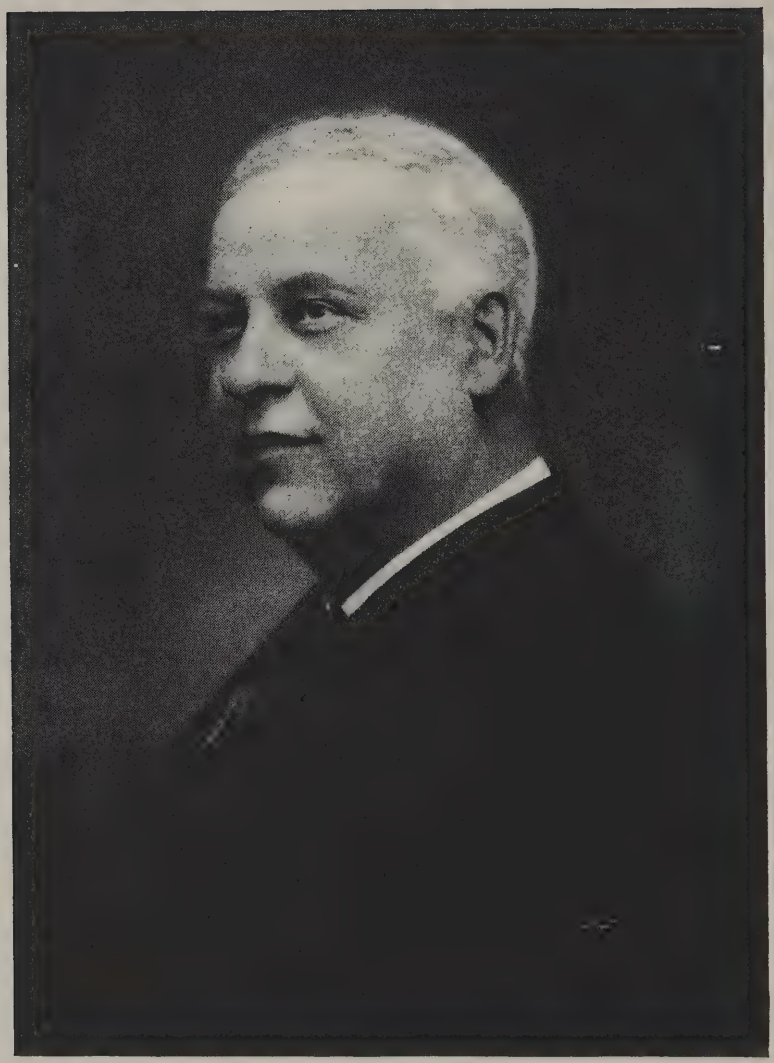
T. Frank Brown attended the country schools in Guernsey County during the winter seasons until he was eighteen years old and remained at home assisting his father until 1879. In August of that year he came to Wells County, Indiana, and located on the farm he now owns in Chester Township, purchasing the same before he was married, on February 11, 1880, to Rose M. Schriber, who died September 7, 1896. She also was a native of Guernsey County, Ohio, born March 27, 1860, and was educated at the Cambridge High School. They had three children: William M., who was born December 4, 1880, died December 13, 1888; Arthur S., who was born June 4, 1884, is a graduate of the Liberty Center High School; and Cecile R., who was born May 17, 1891. This young lady was educated very carefully. At the age of eleven years she became a pupil in the Immaculate Conception Academy, at Oldenburg, Indiana, and remained there until she had completed the academic course and was graduated in 1910. She is a member of Crescent Chapter No. 48, Order of the Eastern Star, at Bluffton, Indiana. Arthur S. is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Brown owns 191 acres in Chester Township and carries on large farming and stock operations here. In 1914 he completed the erection of one of the finest residences in the township if not in the county, its composition being of veneered brick and stucco, that presents a handsome exterior, while every modern comfort and convenience has been added to its interior equipment. Its surroundings are equally attractive.

In politics Mr. Brown is a republican but has never been very active in campaign work and has never desired political preferment for himself. He is always ready, however, to co-operate with others in movements that will benefit this section and is a strong advocate of good roads. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Elks, No. 796, Bluffton.

John O. Kunkel, now a resident of Chester Township in Wells County, is member of that old and prominent Kunkel family which has been identified with this county from pioneer times and its activities and influence as good citizens have been widespread.

Mr. Kunkel was born on a farm in Lancaster Township of Wells County December 23, 1852. He is a son of Michael and Mary A. (Kleinkneight) Kunkel. Michael Kunkel was born in York County, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1816, son of Michael and Catherine (Sence) Kunkel. The grandfather removed from Pennsylvania to Crawford County, Ohio, where he developed a farm in the wilderness and lived there until his death. Michael Kunkel, Jr., married for his first wife Julia Mason, who died about 1847, the mother of five children. One of these children, Samuel Kunkel, a half brother of John O., is distinguished as the founder and originator of the Town of Toesin in Wells County. He owned the land and in 1882 had a portion of it surveyed into lots and that was the beginning of the village. For his second wife Michael Kunkel married Mary A. Kleinkneight, and soon afterward they came with their family to Adams County, Indiana, settling on a farm near Decatur and two



WILLIAM A. HIGH

years later removed to Lancaster Township of Wells County. Michael Kunkel was a practical farmer in that section until 1883, when he removed to Bluffton in order to give his children the advantages of the higher schools there. He died at Bluffton in May, 1886. By his second marriage there were seven children: Martha A., who died in infancy; John O.; Lydia Matilda, wife of T. M. Souder; Rebecca A., who married Henry M. Masterson; Dora A., who died at the age of three years; T. H. Kunkel, also deceased; and William A., of Bluffton.

John O. Kunkel was reared on the old farm and acquired a substantial education considering the time and facilities in which he spent his youth. On November 11, 1876, he married Miss Melissa M. Blue, member of an old and prominent family of this county. She was born in Lancaster Township January 16, 1854, and was educated in the common schools and a select school at Murray and for a time before her marriage was a successful teacher. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kunkel farmed the old homestead two years, and he then engaged in the general merchandise business at Tocsin nine years, and altogether was in merchandising about fifteen years in the county. He then resumed farming in Lancaster Township, but after five years sold his place there and moved to Chester Township, where he now owns and occupies a well developed farm of 100 acres. Mr. Kunkel is a democrat in politics and is affiliated with Tocsin Lodge No. 486, Knights of Pythias.

He and his wife are the parents of six children: Fred, of Chester Township; Mary, wife of Earl French, now principal of schools at Willow Lake, South Dakota; Reuben, who takes an active part in the management of the home farm: Elzy, a resident of Kansas; Eva, a teacher in the district schools; and Claudine, a graduate of the common schools and now a student at Bluffton.

William A. High, a resident of Bluffton many years, is identified with Wells County through many individual associations and also by the relationship of his family who were pioneers in Wells County.

Mr. High is in fact a native of Wells County, having been born on a farm in Lancaster Township near Tocsin March 7, 1862. He is a son of Charles S. and Lydia J. (Kleinknecht) High. His grandparents were Joseph and Mary (Dare) High. Joseph High was born in New Jersey December 18, 1794, grew to maturity there. Mary Dare also spent her early life in New Jersey and they were married on November 3, 1816. After living several years in New Jersey they started westward and reaching Franklin County, Indiana, settled near College Corners. This was their home until the fall of 1840, when with covered wagons and teams they journeyed through a partial wilderness to Wells County and located in the woods in Lancaster Township. Joseph High was a pioneer in New Jersey which he had helped to defend and protect during the War of 1812. He had an honorable discharge from the United States service and furthermore had a land grant which permitted him to enter eighty acres of land. He not only availed himself of that privilege but entered another eighty acres adjoining, giving him a quarter section at the locality known as Pugney. Having secured that land he cleared away some of the trees and built his cabin home and in that environment he reared his five sons and two daughters. These children were: Ruth, who became the wife of Hiram Trullender; Ezekiel, who married Emily Dailey; Enoch, who married Elizabeth Dailey; Charles S.; Ephraim, who married Elizabeth Shadey; Ann, who became the wife of Samuel Knight; Benjamin, who married Mary Sparks. All these children are now deceased.

Charles S. High was born in Franklin County, Indiana, April 2,

1830, and was about ten years of age when his parents moved to Lancaster Township of Wells County. Young as he was he was able to assist his father in the work of clearing away the timber and bringing the fields to cultivation. At the same time he was availing himself of the meager privileges of the school, attending to his educational necessities in the old log schoolhouse of Lancaster Township, later having the better advantages of the schools of Bluffton. He wisely improved these opportunities, and for a number of years was a recognized teacher. He taught in the district schools in Wells County for a number of years. The practical work of farming was never quite to his taste but he delighted in any occupation that had a mechanical turn, and he was thus connected with several of the older sawmills of the county.

After his marriage in 1854 he located on a farm in Lancaster Township, and applied himself with vigor and determination to the business of making as well as carrying on a farm. He did a great deal of ditching and clearing in order to put the land into shape. Later he sold that farm and bought another in section 2 of Lancaster Township, where he lived until the fall of 1882. He then moved into Bluffton, and employed himself at different lines of occupation there the rest of his active life. Charles S. High died November 26, 1907. He had many warm friends throughout Wells County, people who esteemed him for his good mind and his general worth. He always kept himself well informed and was able to discuss intelligently affairs of history and current problems. Politically he voted as a democrat and did much for the party cause, though never was a seeker for public office. During the Civil war he volunteered, going to Wabash, Indiana, where he sought enlistment in the One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry. However, the quota was filled up and there being no room for him he was honorably discharged.

Charles S. High and Lydia J. Kleinknecht were married on June 1, 1854. She was the daughter of John M. and Anna (Isenhardt) Kleinknecht, both natives of Germany. It chanced that they came from the fatherland to the United States on the same ship. It was a voyage that took three months and by the time the boat landed its passengers at Baltimore they were well acquainted and this acquaintance ripened rapidly until they married. After their marriage they settled in Reading, Pennsylvania, later moved to Crawford County, Ohio, where the father followed his trade, and in 1848 came to Jefferson Township of Wells County, Indiana, locating on a farm just north of where the village of Tocsin now stands. John M. Kleinknecht worked as a mechanic and also farmed. He was a devout Christian and organized the first United Brethren Church in his locality, the outcome of which is the prosperous church at Tocsin. He was class leader and had much to do with church activities all his life. In the Kleinknecht family were the following children: Jacob and Peter, twins, the former of whom married Betsey Miller and the latter Mrs. Cowden; John, who married Mary Wilkins; Mary A., who married Michael Kunkel; William, who married Amrett Richey; Lydia J., who married Charles S. High.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. High had five children: Robert H., born August 5, 1855, married Alice Dalzell and lived in Sullivan County, Missouri; Mary E., born October 28, 1857, died February 18, 1873; Nancy M., born December 2, 1859, became the wife of Theodore Blosser and died November 28, 1915; William A., born March 7, 1862; and Calvin T., born October 6, 1866, and died November 24, 1879.

William A. High grew up on his father's farm in Lancaster Township, and his first school advantages were supplied by the district schools. He also attended the Wells County Normal and the Bluffton High School and in 1883 at the age of twenty-one began teaching. His first term was

at Eagleville. After several terms of teaching he entered the University at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he graduated with the degree Bachelor of Science in August, 1885. With this superior equipment he returned to Wells County and after another brief service as teacher was appointed surveyor for the county. He also was an instructor in the Bluffton High School and was then successively superintendent of the schools at Bunker Hill, Lowell and Warren, Indiana. Mr. High also filled a position four years in the auditors' office of Huntington County, Indiana. In 1911 he returned to Bluffton where he has since had his home, and where he owns a comfortable residence and other property.

March 7, 1888, Mr. High married Martha J. Goshorn. She was born in Jefferson Township of Wells County November 26, 1864, daughter of William M. and Fannie A. (Ogden) Goshorn. Her father was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1832, and died March 7, 1909, on his farm in Jefferson Township. William M. Goshorn was the youngest of the eleven children of George and Nancy A. (Calhoun) Goshorn. He received his early education in the schools of Trumbull County, Ohio, and in 1849 the Goshorn family removed to Wells County, Indiana, locating in Jefferson Township. In that one locality William M. Goshorn spent the rest of the days of his life as a practical farmer. On November 10, 1853, he married Fannie A. Ogden, who was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1833, and was brought by her parents to Jefferson Township of Wells County in 1839. She was old enough then to appreciate the wildness of the pioneer surroundings and here she lived until her death on April 24, 1896, more than fifty years later. In the Goshorn family were the following children: Agnes M., wife of B. F. Fusselman, of Philadelphia; John V., who lives at Ossian, Indiana, married Catherine Woodward; Samuel A., who died at the age of fourteen; Mary J., who became the wife of William A. Woodward who is now deceased; Martha J., wife of William A. High.

Mrs. High was educated in district schools, in the Ossian High School, and before her marriage did considerable teaching both in the district schools and as a primary teacher at Bluffton. The children younger than Mrs. High in the Goshorn family were: George, deceased; William D., who lives on the old farm in Jefferson Township and married Martha Hoopengardner; Fannie E., wife of E. S. Cotton of Fort Wayne; and Charles F., who married Effie McCorkle, lives in Delphos, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. High have had an interesting family of young people, five in number. The oldest, Harold G., born October 2, 1889, graduated from the Huntington High School, spent one year in the State University, and on April 15, 1915, married Gertrude LaPointe. They now live in New York City. Howard C., the second son, was born July 20, 1892, is a graduate of the Huntington High School and on October 1, 1911, married Hazel I. Menish and they have one child, Howard C., Jr., born January 27, 1914, the only grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. High. Harry B., the third son. was born February 20, 1898, and died September 3, 1898. William A. High, Jr., born March 26, 1903, is now a student in the Bluffton High School. One child died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. High and family are members of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons, Bluffton Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters. The sons Harold and Howard are also affiliated with the Masonic Lodge. Mr. and Mrs. High are members of Crescent Chapter No. 48, Order of the Eastern Star, and he is a past chancellor of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a republican.

GEORGE S. MORRIS. If those who claim that fortune has favored certain individuals above others will but investigate the cause of success and failure, it will be found that the former is largely due to the improvement of opportunity, the latter to the neglect of it. Fortunate environment encompass nearly every man at some stage of his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is the one who passes on the highway of life others who started out ahead of him, and reaches the goal of prosperity in advance of them. It is this quality in George S. Morris that has made him a leader in business circles and won him an enviable name in connection with various enterprises in Bluffton and other sections. He is president of the Morris 5 and 10 Cent Stores, consisting of eighteen stores in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, and he is likewise connected with several other business ventures in Wells County.

George S. Morris was born near Lebanon, in Boone County, Indiana, on the 17th of June, 1876, and he is a son of John S. and Mary E. (Powell) Morris, both of whom are living. In 1884 the Morris family located in the City of Lebanon and there the young George received his preliminary educational training. He came to Bluffton in 1892 and for one year attended high school in this city. He then engaged as a clerk and followed that line of work for six years. In 1903 he borrowed $500 and opened a 5 and 10 cent store in the Mitchell Building on Main Street. Two years later he located in the Studabaker room across the street. His venture was fraught with success and in 1906 he opened a branch store at Columbia City. In the following year he opened stores at Kokomo and New Castle and at that time the business was designated as G. S. Morris & Company. In 1908 the name was changed to the Morris 5 and 10 Cent Store and in 1914 the business was incorporated under that name, with the following officers: George S. Morris, president; J. A. Morris, vice president; and H. A. McFarren, secretary and treasurer. Following are the names of the directors: W. D. Morris, George S. Morris, John A. Morris, H. A. McFarren, Fred Bell, and F. N. Rhoton. Stores of the company are located at Bluffton, Columbia City, New Castle, Elwood, Portland, Decatur, Hartford City, Greensburg, Plymouth, Noblesville, Franklin, North Manchester, Vincennes, and Goshen, Indiana; at Hillsdale and Benton Harbor, Michigan; and at Bryan and Defiance, Ohio. These stores are conducted in a businesslike manner and have proved a profitable investment for the owners.

In addition to being president of the store corporation mentioned at length above, George S. Morris is vice president of the J. A. Morris Company, manufacturing agents and jobbers, which was incorporated in 1902, and he is owner of the Bluffton Toy Manufacturing Company. He is a stockholder in the Studebaker Bank and one of the directors in the W. B. Brown Company. With his father, John A., he owns the building occupied by their store in Bluffton, also the one west of it. He has a farm of 120 acres in Blue Creek Township, Adams County, Indiana, and leases the same.

Mr. Morris married Miss Harriet J. Patterson, a daughter of the late Captain R. D. Patterson, formerly a resident of Decatur and an ex-county official. Mrs. Morris was born and reared in Decatur and was graduated in the high school of that city. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Morris: French P. is a pupil in the Bluffton High School; Catherine E. is a pupil in the graded schools; and Margaret J. The family are members of the Baptist Church.

Fraternally, Mr. Morris stands high in Masonry, being a member of

Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons; Bluffton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Bluffton Council, Royal and Select Masters; and the Knights Templars. He is also a Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise affiliates with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias; and Bluffton Lodge No. 796, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His political support is given to the democratic party. In every respect he is a public-spirited citizen and a reliable and enterprising business man.

JOHN W. SMITH. In the farming communities that make up so large a proportion of the substantial citizenship of Indiana, will be found men of intelligence, broad view and thorough knowledge of every phase of agriculture. Wells County has such men and one of these, John W. Smith, owns a valuable and well improved farm that is situated in Lancaster Township.

John W. Smith was born in De Witt County, Illinois, March 22, 1856. His parents were George and Elizabeth Smith, the former of whom was born in Lincolnshire, England, and the latter in Marion County, Ohio. The mother died in March, 1886, and the father in October, 1907. They had the following children: Ellen, Sarah Anne, John W., George, Jane Harriet, Frank, Mary, Celista and Henry.

John W. Smith was reared on the home farm and obtained his education in the district schools. Being the eldest son in the family, heavier responsibilities fell on him than on his brothers and at an earlier age. He has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits and is now looked upon as one of Lancaster Township's most efficient farmers and stock-raisers. His industry is proverbial and the methods by which he has brought his farm to its present high stage of cultivation, are those which his experience and common sense have seemed to him most practical under the circumstances. He has resided on this farm for over twenty-four years, settling here February 28, 1893, and every rod of his eighty-four acres is utilized.

Mr. Smith was married September 19, 1882, to Miss Martha E. Ward, who is a daughter of G. Ward, a well known farmer of this section, and they have three children and an adopted son, as follows: Etta, who is the wife of Peter Zaugg; Lesta, who is the wife of Charles Mowery; Grace, who is the wife of Harry Harvey; and Thornton, who was adopted after the death of his mother, who was a sister of Mr. Smith.

In his political views Mr. Smith is a democrat. He is a good citizen, takes an interest in all that concerns the well being of his neighborhood, is an advocate of good roads, and would be one of the first to contribute help if any case of want or distress should be brought to his attention. He and family are all highly respected residents of Wells County.

WILLIAM B. TEEPLE. The substantial character of a number of the homes and other structures of Decatur and vicinity is an immediate testimony to the skill and efficiency of William B. Teeple as a contractor and builder, whose services have been valued and esteemed in this community in that profession for over thirty years.

Mr. Teeple was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County, March 19, 1860. He grew up in a country community, was educated in the district schools, and at the age of eighteen came to Decatur to learn the trade of carpenter under Sprangler & Mann. He was with them two or three years and then for eight years was in the employ of J. Wilson Merriman. In 1900 he became associated with the well known contracting firm of Mann & Christin, comprising E. A. Mann and C.

N. Christin. He handled many of the active responsibilities of this firm of contractors for three years and then entered business for himself.

Mr. Teeple has been one of the leading contractors of Adams County for the past fifteen years. During that time he has built on an average four or five residences or other structures annually, and is still keeping up his work with all the old time efficiency and is noted for the reliability with which he carries out every detail of his agreements and whatever he does is of the same substantial workmanship as his individual character. For thirty-three years Mr. Teeple and family have lived at the corner of Ninth Street and Jackson, in Decatur, where he bought a lot 66 by 132 feet and built his own attractive residence.

Mr. Teeple is a son of George W. Teeple, who was born at Mount Gilead, Morrow County, Ohio, July 13, 1834. The grandfather Samuel Teeple was a hotel proprietor at Mount Gilead for many years. In 1854 he brought his family to St. Mary's Township of Adams County and was one of the pioneers of that district. He had to clear away some of the timber before he could build his log cabin home, and in the course of time a large acreage responded to his efforts as a cultivator of the soil. He finally removed to Decatur, and lived at the corner of Ninth and Adams streets until his death in 1877 when about sixty-five years of age. Samuel Teeple married Esther Ann Kiser, who was born in Pennsylvania and surviving her husband died when about seventy-two. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Samuel Teeple was a strenuous advocate of the principles of the republican party and all his sons and grandsons have followed him in the same political faith.

George W. Teeple married for his first wife Catherine Brittson. She was born on the old Brittson homestead in St. Mary's Township March 22, 1837, grew up there and spent most of her life in that same vicinity. The Brittsons came into Adams County when land was plentiful and cheap, acquired a tract from the Government at $1.25 per acre, and cleared away and developed about 325 acres lying on the Indiana side of the state line. In that community the Brittsons spent many useful and active years. Grandfather Brittson was a cabinet maker by trade, coming to Indiana from Maryland, and he lost his life during a barn raising at James Foster's place, being at that time about sixty years of age. He was the father of seven sons and seven daughters, and one of his sons Isaac became the father of twenty-four children. His daughter Mrs. George W. Teeple was the seventh child, and she died on the old Teeple farm in St. Mary's Township January 19, 1879. Her children were: William B.; Sarah L., wife of Henry Westerfelt, now mayor of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Emma A., who is married and lives in Tennessee. George W. Teeple married for his second wife October 9, 1879, Elizabeth Smith, of Van Wert County, Ohio. She died March 22, 1896, leaving no children. For his third wife he married Caroline (Keller) Reed, and there were no children of this union. His third wife, again a widow, is living at Decatur at the advanced age of eighty-five.

Mr. William B. Teeple married at Cedarville, in Allen County, Indiana, Miss Ollie Holopeter. She was born in that village and died at her home in Decatur April 12, 1900. She was born March 3, 1867, and proved herself a very capable wife and mother, diligent in home and faithful to all the duties of life's relationship. She became the mother of three daughters and one son. Iva May, the oldest of the family, is the wife of George W. Davis, foreman of a sash, door and lumber company at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bessie M. was educated in the local schools of Decatur and is now the efficient housekeeper for her father. Mary A. married Noah Sheets, a farmer in Root Township, and they

have a daughter Helen born in October, 1917. The only son, Fred, was born November 10, 1898, and is still at home and finds employment in the sugar beet factory. Mr. Teeple and children are all active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is an ardent republican and is affiliated with the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Loyal Order of Moose at Decatur.

GEORGE W. TESTER is one of the popular business men of Decatur, and has largely created his own opportunities in a business way and now supplies a valuable service to the community as proprietor of a shoe store and of the Decatur Dry Cleaning establishment, located at 243 West Monroe Street. He also handles the local agency for the Wear U Well shoes. He began business at Decatur on a small scale December 1, 1911. His stock and his methods were calculated to attract patrons and keep them, and consequently he has had a growing business, and while by no means one of the wealthiest people of Decatur, he is financially independent, has a flourishing business, and has built a very comfortable and attractive home at 739 High Street. At his home he erected and installed the facilities for a dry cleaning plant, and his service in that department is equal to the best of any offered in this section of Indiana.

Mr. Tester was born at Napoleon, Ohio, September 12, 1877, and when a small child his parents removed to Rochester, Indiana. He received his education in the schools there, and learned the machinist's trade in his father's shop. He has been a resident of Decatur for the past twenty years, and the capital which he put into his business is almost entirely of his own earnings and his success represents his individual efforts and achievements.

He is a son of Jacob A. and Mary A. (Miller) Tester, well known residents of Decatur. His father was born in Henry County, Ohio, in 1853, and his mother in Warsaw, Indiana, in 1855.

They married in Henry County, Ohio, and were farmers there. Their respective parents were of German stock. Jacob A. Tester was a son of George W. and Sophia (Spangler) Tester, who for many years lived on a farm in Henry County, Ohio. The grandfather died there about eighteen years ago when well advanced in years and his widow is still living at the old homestead aged eighty-seven. They were Lutherans and the grandfather was a republican. Mary Miller's parents came from Germany and spent their active lives as farmers at Warsaw, Indiana. Her father was also a merchant and a very well to do citizen. Jacob A. Tester and wife moved to Rochester, Indiana, and he engaged in the machinist's trade and since he came to Decatur he has continued the same work and for the past ten years has been connected with the Decatur Furnace and Machine Company. He and his wife own a comfortable home at 904 Nutman Street. They are active workers in the Evangelical Church and in politics he is a democrat. George W. Tester was the oldest of five children. The others are: Mrs. H. N. Shroll of Decatur; Floyd A., who is married and living in Los Angeles, California, and has one son; Lawrence N., now a resident of Terre Haute, Indiana, and father of a son and a daughter; Mrs. H. C. Burdge, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, mother of one son.

On May 1, 1905, at Decatur George W. Tester married Miss Edith I. Hackman. She was born in this city February 3, 1886, and was educated in the high school. They have two children: Harold R., born in 1907 and a student in the second grade; and Guy, born July 5, 1917. Mrs. Tester is a member of the Catholic Church. Fraternally Mr. Tester is affiliated with Lodge No. 65 of the Knights of Pythias, which

he has served in official capacity, and also with the Tribe of Ben Hur No. 156. Politically he is a democrat.

PROF. ARTHUR R. HUYETTE, now serving in his fourth term as superintendent of the schools of Wells County, has gained much distinction as an educator in this section of Indiana and during his long connection with the schools of this locality has succeeded in greatly raising the intellectual standard and promoting the efficiency of the system as a preparation for the responsible duties of life. Indeed, the constant aim and the general character of Professor Huyette's life work are summed up in the famous dictum of Sidney Smith, that: "The real object of education is to give children resources that will endure as long as life endures; habits that time will ameliorate, not destroy; occupation that will render sickness tolerable, solitude pleasant, age venerable, life more dignified and useful."

A native of the Hoosier state, Professor Huyette was born on a farm in Clear Creek Township, Huntington County, Indiana, the date of his birth being November 3, 1871. He is a son of Joseph R. and Louise (Gray) Huyette, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania and reared to maturity near Altoona, that state. The parents were educated in the common schools of their day and Mrs. Huyette gained a reputation as an expert speller. They were married in Pennsylvania and came to Huntington County, Indiana, in 1860, settling on a farm in Huntington Township and residing there for a period of two years, at the expiration of which they located on the General Slack farm. They lived on the latter place but a short time and then purchased a farm of eighty acres in Clear Creek Township, making that their permanent home. Mr. Huyette cleared his land, erected substantial buildings and installed numerous modern improvements and he continued to reside on this farm until 1915 when he sold it. Mrs. Huyette was summoned to the life eternal January 1, 1914, and he now makes his home at Mardenis, Indiana. They were active members of the Zion United Brethren Church and he served on the building committee and as a trustee when that edifice was erected. To Mr. and Mrs. Huyette were born six children, concerning whom the following brief data are here incorporated: Anna M. is the wife of J. B. De Armitt, of Huntington, Indiana; Juanita C. is the widow of E. E. Dennis, Huntington, she was graduated from the State Normal School and is now one of the teachers in the Huntington City schools; Fannie S. is the wife of William F. Rice, of Union Township, Huntington County; Arthur is the subject of this sketch; Jessie A. was graduated in the Huntington High School and the State Normal School and is now first primary teacher in the Tipton Street School in Huntington; and Walter G. is a resident of the City of Huntington, where he is profitably engaged in work as a machinist.

Professor Huyette passed his boyhood days on the old homestead farm in Clear Creek Township, Huntington County, this state, and received his preliminary educational training in the district schools of that locality. He was graduated in the Clear Creek High School and was matriculated as a student in the State Normal School at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1890. He initiated his life work as a teacher in School No. 4, in Clear Creek Township, in the winter of 1890-1 and he continued alternating as student and teacher until 1895, in which year he was graduated in the State Normal School. May it be said to his credit that he earned his own education, acting as purveyor of the boarding house where he stayed while a student and teaching during the terms he was absent from the normal school. During the winter of 1895-6 he was a grade teacher in the Williams Street School in Huntington and

following that he was superintendent of schools at Bristol, in Elkhart County, for two years. In the fall of 1898 he was elected principal of the Keystone Public School and he retained that important position until 1903, when he was elected superintendent of schools for Wells County. He has been successively re-elected to the latter office and when he will have completed his present term will have served for a period of eighteen years. His service in this connection has been marked by efficiency of a high order. He was the originator of the common school commencement in this section, the first one being held at Bluffton, with a class of eighty-four graduates, in 1907; this class was increased to 247 graduates, in 1917. The commencement is a goal toward which the ambitious student can work and it acts as an incentive to many who would otherwise leave school a year or two prior to that attainment. In 1906 he installed uniform text-books in all the schools throughout the county, this including the high schools as well as the common schools. He also lengthened the high school term from seven to eight months. His work has received the approval of the most progressive citizens of Wells County and he has enlisted the co-operation of his teachers to such an extent that great harmony prevails and the concerted action is attended with excellent results.

August 9, 1900, in the city of Huntington, Indiana, was solemnized the marriage of Professor Huyette to Miss Anna S. France, a graduate of Huntington High School. She is also a graduate of the State Normal School and for several years prior to her marriage was a popular and successful teacher in the Huntington and East Chicago schools. Professor and Mrs. Huyette became the parents of three children: Kenneth H., born November 25, 1901, is now a senior in the Bluffton High School; Raymond J., born May 28, 1909, is a pupil in the grades; and Elizabeth, born March 5, 1907, died December 12, 1907.

In a fraternal way Professor Huyette is a valued and appreciative member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, in which he is past chancellor and in which he was district deputy under Grand Chancellor W. P. Hart for a number of years. At present he is serving his second term as trustee of this order. With his wife he is also connected with the Pythian Sisters. They are both devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is connected with the official board; superintendent of graduation of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School. In politics he is a stanch democrat and he has always manifested a deep and sincere interest in matters pertaining to the general welfare of the community in which he resides. He is the owner of a beautiful home in the suburb, Villa North, and some of his leisure time is given to the breeding of high-grade poultry, in which connection he is superintendent of the poultry department of the Bluffton Free Street Fair. Professor and Mrs. Huyette are popular in connection with the social activities of their neighborhood and their beautiful home is the center of many attractive receptions.

Clement T. Kain, the present auditor of Wells County, Indiana, has gained a position of distinctive priority as one of the representative men of this section of the state. He has served in several positions of importance to his community, among them being deputy treasurer of the county and deputy auditor. He has gained success and prestige through his own endeavors and thus the more honor is due him for his earnest labors in his exacting profession and for the precedence he has gained in his chosen vocation.

A native of the Hoosier State, Mr. Kain was born in Liberty Township, Wells County, Indiana, December 10, 1871. He is a son of Rev.

David and Amanda (Earhart) Kain, the former of whom was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Rev. Mr. Kain was a child of but nine years of age when he accompanied his parents from Ohio to Wells County. The family settled in Union Township and there he grew to maturity, receiving his early educational training in the public schools and in Roanoke Seminary. He was trained for the Evangelical Lutheran ministry and after being ordained was stationed in Adams County at Monmouth, Indiana. He was a stanch worker for the good of mankind and accomplished much as an active prohibitionist. He was summoned to the life eternal February 3, 1908, and at that time was a resident of Noble County, Indiana. Of the six children born to Reverend and Mrs. Kain five are still living, as follows: Clement T., of this review; John Luther is a resident of Sturgis, Michigan; C. H. was graduated in the Bluffton High School, attended Wabash College for two years, and for a like period was a student at a college in Winona, Indiana, and he is now in the reclamation department of the United States Government, under the direction of the surveyor general; Catherine is the wife of Curtiss Ash, a farmer in the vicinity of Litchfield, Michigan; and Rosa is the wife of Hiram Scott, of Goshen, Indiana.

After completing the prescribed course in the high school at Albion, Indiana, Clement T. Kain was matriculated as a student in Wittenberg College, at Springfield, Ohio, attending that well-known institution for a period of three years. After leaving college he was a popular and successful teacher in Allen County, this state, for some years and in April, 1894, he located at Bluffton and here entered the office of Martin & Eichhorn as a student at law. He was admitted to the bar in the fall of the same year and soon afterward was appointed deputy treasurer of Wells County, under his uncle, B. F. Kain, serving a term of four years under him, another term under Amos King and still another term under Ed Sauers. He served for two years on the state board of accountants and in 1912 became deputy auditor for L. A. Williamson. When Mr. Williamson died, in 1915, Mr. Kain was appointed to fill out his unexpired term and in the following year he was regularly elected to the office of county auditor, in which capacity he is serving with the utmost efficiency at the present time.

In August, 1906, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kain to Miss Bertha Hall, a daughter of Adnah and Jennie (Sloan) Hall. Mrs. Kain was born and reared in Bluffton, Indiana, and was educated in the public and high schools of this place. She is popular in the social life of her home community and she and her husband are devout members of the Presbyterian Church.

In a fraternal way Mr. Kain is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 45, Free and Accepted Masons; Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons; Bluffton Lodge No. 96, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in which he is a charter member, and past exalted ruler; and with Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. A democrat in politics, he has valiantly supported all matters projected for the good of the general welfare and in every manner possible has proved himself a loyal and public-spirited citizen. His work as a county official has been thorough and exact and marked with efficiency in every respect. He is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, for his sterling integrity and straightforward methods.

Perry F. Hunt. A man of sterling worth and character, and an active and esteemed citizen of Bluffton, Perry F. Hunt has the distinction of being the second man elected to the mayorality of the city on the

republican ticket. A native of Indiana, he was born, March 4, 1884, in Summitville, Madison County.

Mr. Hunt's father, Dr. Thomas M. Hunt, entered the medical profession when young, and for many years was the leading physician of Dunkirk, Jay County, this state. Being forced on account of failing health to give up practice, he removed to Parker, Indiana, and there lived retired until his death. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Mary C. Painter, two children were born, as follows: Talmage D., superintendent of the construction department of the Great Northern Construction Company of Corning Arkansas; and Perry F.

Growing to manhood in Dunkirk, Perry F. Hunt acquired an excellent education in the public schools. In 1909 he went to Summitville, but not finding congenial employment there he proceeded to Logansport, Indiana, where he remained busily employed for nearly two years. On August 1, 1910, Mr. Hunt located in Bluffton, and having accepted a position with the traction company assumed charge of the Bluffton run, and as a conductor proved himself both efficient and popular, being a favorite with the traveling public.

Although a stanch republican in his political affiliations, Mr. Hunt has never been an office seeker in the manner implied by the term. He did, however, accept the nomination for mayor of Bluffton tendered him by his party, and on November 6, 1917, had the honor of being elected to the responsible position by his fellow citizens, receiving a majority ot twenty-five votes. Fraternally Mr. Hunt is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Hunt was united in marriage, in January, 1905, with Anna B. Ford. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are the parents of six children, namely: Bessie M., May B., Harry D., Robert F., Charles L., and Martha L. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are rearing their children in the same faith.

Herman Thoma is a son of Henry Thoma, born in Ebersdorf, Germany, January 28, 1832. He passed his boyhood and youth on his father's farm, in the work and management of which he bore his part, and he was educated in the neighboring schools. In 1849, aged seventeen years, he decided to try his fortune in America and after bidding a fond farewell to relatives and friends he came hither, landing in the port of New York June 7, 1849. He proceeded thence to Ohio and located at Findlay, where he entered upon an apprenticeship to learn the trade of cabinet-maker. Three years later, having become an adept in this line, he was enrolled as a student in the Presbyterian Academy, in Findlay, paying his school expenses by working at his trade evenings. In the spring of 1853 he was employed as a clerk in a grain elevator and later in the same year he came to Bluffton. Here, in 1854, he entered into a partnership alliance with Jacob Tribolet and opened up a furniture establishment under the firm name of Thoma-Tribolet & Company. This mutually agreeable partnership lasted until 1861 when it was dissolved. For eight months after that Mr. Thoma clerked in the hardware store of Henry Cook. In 1862 he took over the Tribolet & Company store, of furniture and undertaking, as his own, Jacob Tribolet enlisting. This store is now run by Herman Thoma under the firm name of H. Thoma & Son. Henry Thoma was a shrewd business man and the marked success he attained was the result of his own enterprise and initiative. In politics he was a democrat and it is interesting to note that he was coroner of Wells County for several years. His fraternal connections were with Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons,

with Bluffton Chapter No. 95, Royal Arch Masons, and with Council No. 63. In Bluffton Lodge he served as treasurer for twenty-eight years.

In 1869 Henry Thoma was united in marriage to Miss Mathilda Deaver, a daughter of James Deaver. Herman, the only child of this union, was born June 16, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Thoma were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and they were loyal and consistent workers in behalf of its welfare. Mr. Thoma was summoned to the life eternal January 14, 1913, and his cherished and devoted wife passed away August 27, 1899. They were both kindly and hospitable and were dearly beloved by their numerous friends and neighbors.

Herman Thoma, present coroner of Wells County, grew to maturity in his native town of Bluffton and was graduated in the local high school in 1892. He early familiarized himself with the business in his father's store and eventually became associated with the senior Mr. Thoma under the firm name of H. Thoma & Son. This business, now owned entirely by Herman Thoma, though still conducted as H. Thoma & Son, is a furniture and undertaking establishment of large proportions. The business is housed in attractive quarters and is one of the foremost concerns of its kind in the county. Although not a politician, Mr. Thoma is a firm believer in the principles of the democratic party and he has given efficient service as city councilman in 1901-03 and as coroner of Wells County for the past nine years, being the present incumbent of this office. He is an active and enthusiastic Mason, being past master, past high priest, past illustrious master, and past eminent commander. He is one of the foremost members of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons, is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and likewise a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He and his wife are active workers in the local lodge of the Eastern Star. Following in his father's footsteps, Mr. Thoma, in addition to conducting the furniture and undertaking business initiated by his honored father, and serving as coroner as did his father before him, is likewise treasurer of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons.

January 31, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Thoma to Miss Emma Flora, a native of Wells County. To them have been born two children: William and Mary, both students in the Bluffton High School, where they stand high both in their studies and in the esteem of their classmates. The family are valued and appreciative members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday school, to whose good works they are liberal contributors.

Fred H. Heuer. Most closely identified with the character and growth of any community are its commercial interests and the men who control their policies. These enterprises and their backers mold the life of the people, give direction to their efforts and crystallize the present and future possibilities of the locality into concrete form. The leading business men of a city are its greatest forces and benefactors, who bring progress and prosperity and whose directing guidance makes possible the establishment of good government and the founding of institutions for the benefit of the people. One of the leading establishments of a business character at Decatur, Indiana, is the enterprise known as the Holthouse Drug Company, an establishment which, founded in 1901, has grown and developed until it is looked upon by the people as a necessary adjunct to the city's commercial life. Much of the success that has been attained by this establishment may be accredited to its president, Fred H. Heuer, who not only directs the policies of this institution but

is also widely and favorably known in the city as a public-spirited and progressive citizen.

Mr. Heuer was born on a farm in Root Township, Adams County, Indiana, January 8, 1875, a son of Henry and Louisa (Christianer) Heuer. His father was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1844, and was six years of age when brought by his parents to the United States, the family first settling at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Henry Heuer grew to young manhood. He then moved to a farm in Adams County, Indiana, and here was married to Louisa Christianer, who was born in this county, in 1847, daughter of German parents who had come to this country in 1838-40 and settled in Root Township, where they cleared up a good farm. Mr. Christianer, who lived to be seventy-nine years of age, was twice married and had children by each of his wives. Mrs. Henry Heuer died on the home farm in December, 1915, having survived only a short time after her husband's death in March of the same year. They were faithful members of the Lutheran Church, both in Germany and the United States, and Mr. Heuer was a democrat in his political adherence. Mr. and Mrs. Heuer were the parents of the following children: Sophia, who is unmarried; Fred H., of this notice; Herman, who is engaged in farming in Washington Township, Adams County, is married and has a son, Harry; John, who lives on the old homestead in Root Township, is also married; Theodore, who is single and lives at the old home place; and Fredericka, who is the wife of Henry Franz, a carpenter of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is married and has two children, Frederick and an infant.

Fred H. Heuer was reared on the home farm and was given good educational advantages, attending the district schools and then being prepared for his chosen vocation of pharmacist. He became the proprietor of an establishment at Decatur, which he conducted with success until 1901, when he assisted in the organization of the Holthouse Drug Company, of which the first officials were: J. B. Holthouse, president; H. F. Callow, secretary, and Fred H. Heuer, treasurer. After several years Mr. Callow sold his interests and was succeeded in the secretarial office by Mr. Heuer, and later L. H. Kleinhanz and Albert N. Sellemyer were admitted to the company, the former becoming vice president and the latter secretary and treasurer. In the meantime, in February, 1915, Mr. Holthouse died, and Mr. Heuer was elected to the presidency, and the officers still remain as above noted. Mr. Heuer is a registered pharmacist and accounted one of the live and progressive business men of his city; thoroughly familiar with his business and with other subjects, and of the highest integrity in his dealings. Mr. Kleinhanz, the vice president, who was secretary of the company for some years, is a native product of the County of Adams, a well educated man and a graduate pharmacist, who is also well and favorably known in business circles of Decatur. Albert N. Sellemyer, secretary and treasurer, was born in Adams County, where he was well educated, and while familiar with the business in general is more particularly interested in the musical department. He is himself well and prominently known as a local musician and for some years has been leader of the Decatur Band, considered one of the best musical organizations in northern Indiana. The 22 by 132 establishment of the Holthouse Drug Company, located at No. 167 North Second Street, has stock and equipment equalling those to be found in the best pharmacies of the large cities. In addition to carrying a complete line of the highest class goods in the way of drugs, druggists sundries, toilet articles, etc., the house also has standard paints and fine wall papers on hand, and a complete line of musical instruments, a specialty being made of Victrolas and Edison talking machines.

Mr. Heuer was married at Decatur, Indiana, in 1901, to Miss Bertha Sellemyer, who was born in this city, where she was educated in the public schools, a daughter of Fred and Elizabeth (Miller) Sellemyer, of American birth, who have lived in Adams County all their lives and whose parents came here during the '40s. Mr. and Mrs. Sellemyer are residents of Decatur, each being sixty-four years old, and are members of the Reformed Church and well known and highly esteemed people. Mrs. Heuer follows the faith of her parents, while Mr. Heuer is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is democratic in his political views, but is inclined to be independent in questions of local import.

Dr. Roy Archbold, member of one of the oldest families of Adams County, has spent the best years of his life rendering skillful and capable service in the profession of dentistry. He was graduated from the dental department of the University of Michigan in 1898 and at once returned to Decatur, his old home, where he entered practice with Dr. A. L. DeVilbiss. Doctor DeVilbiss was one of the pioneer dentists of Decatur and was in practice about twenty-five years until his death seventeen years ago. Doctor Archbold succeeded to the business in 1900, and has from the start enjoyed a splendid practice and a reputation as one of the best men in his line in northeastern Indiana. His practice comes from all over Adams County.

Dr. Archbold is a member of the Indiana State Dental Association and served four years as its treasurer, and is also a member of the National Dental Association.

He was born in Adams County, April 23, 1876, and before beginning study for his profession completed his education in the Decatur High School. His great-grandfather, Thomas Archbold, was born in Ireland and served through seven different enlistments as a Revolutionary war soldier. Quite late in life in 1836 he removed from Ohio to Adams County, Indiana, and was one of the few Revolutionary veterans who spent any part of their lives in this county. He died here when seventy-eight years of age. Of his children Thomas, Jr., was born in Pennsylvania, married there, moved to Ohio and in 1836 came to Root Township of Adams County, and was one of the very first men to penetrate that section of the wilderness and attempt its development. There were no towns of any size anywhere in northeastern Indiana and for several years he lived with comparatively few neighbors and subsisted largely on the game and natural products of the forest. He built a log cabin home, and went sturdily to work clearing up a farm until eventually he had 200 acres. He and his wife died there when well advanced in years. They were among the early members of the Methodist Church. Thomas Archbold, Jr., was in addition to his work as a farmer a school teacher and a lay preacher.

Of their children J. Thomas Archbold III, father of Doctor Archbold, was born on the old Root Township farm October 12, 1839, being one of a large family of children. His sisters, Mrs. Sarah Hower and Mrs. Rachel Mallonee, still live at Decatur. Thomas Archbold III grew up on a farm and married there Angeline M. Fisher. She was born in Adams County February 16, 1848, her father, Thomas Fisher, and wife having come from Ohio to this county in early times. Thomas Fisher died at the age of thirty-five. Thomas Archbold III a few years after his marriage removed to Decatur, and for a number of years was connected with the Shackley Wheel Company. Later he did contract work and died there October 5, 1904, when nearly sixty-five. He was a democrat in politics and at one time was candidate for the office of sheriff. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and the Inde-

pendent Order of Odd Fellows. His widow is still living in Decatur at the age of sixty-nine. She is an active Methodist as well as was her husband. Doctor Archbold was the older of two children. His only sister, Ada, died at the age of four years.

At Wauseon, Ohio, Doctor Archbold married Miss Nola Jenny Nachtrieb. She was born and reared and educated in Wauseon, and her parents now live in Toledo, Ohio. Doctor and Mrs. Archbold have two children, Richard Thomas, born December 25, 1901, now a junior in the high school class; and Josephine M., born July 24, 1911. Dr. Archbold is active in Masonry, being affiliated with the Scottish Rite bodies and the Mystic Shrine at Fort Wayne, and for many years was secretary of the local Royal Arch Chapter. He is also affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Sons of the American Revolution, and his college fraternity is the Delta Sigma Delta.

Claude E. Proper. One of the fine farms of Jackson Township, Wells County, is that of Claude E. Proper, well situated and carefully cultivated and in every way a profitable property. Mr. Proper has been a resident of Jackson Township for almost two decades but has not confined his activities to tilling the soil. He is a raiser of much fine stock and also is known over the county as a successful oil producer.

Claude E. Proper was born in Pennsylvania, in September, 1870, and his father, Harvey Proper, still resides there. The public schools of Pennsylvania are noted for their excellence and Claude E. Proper had many educational advantages. After completing a course in both high and normal schools, he taught school for a year and then went into the oil business and learned the same from the bottom up, and more or less has been identified with this business, in different states and sections, ever since.

There have been war-time conditions in the United States before the present World war, when young men have put aside their personal ambitions and promising business prospects to loyally take up arms for their country, and it was in 1898, at the beginning of the Spanish-American war that Claude E. Proper proved the quality of his patriotism. He enlisted as a private in Company K, Sixteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and before he was honorably discharged and mustered out in December, after a service of eight months, had experienced hardships and hazards in the Porto Rico campaign.

When his military service was ended, Mr. Proper returned to Pennsylvania and from there went to the oil fields of West Virginia and in January, 1900, he came to Wells County, Indiana, and for a time was in the employ of the Ohio Oil Company. From there he went to the oil districts of Illinois and remained in that field for six years as a contractor and oil producer. He is one of the most experienced men in the business in Wells County. His farm contains 160 acres.

Mr. Proper was married in February, 1901, in Wells County, to Miss Essie Runkle, who was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, and has always lived here, the Runkles being an old settled family of this section. Mr. and Mrs. Proper have two children, Glenn and Madge, the former of whom is a student in the Montpelier High School.

Mr. Proper has always been a republican in his political affiliation. While never unduly active in politics, nevertheless as a man who has once been willing to fight for his country, he is deeply concerned in her welfare and has felt a responsibility of citizenship that has made him heartily support candidates for office who have been proved worthy.

Ezekiel Boxell. There are many fine farms in Jackson Township, Wells County, but few of them show evidences of better tillage or more

careful and intelligent management than that owned by Ezekiel Boxell, one of the county's well known men. He was born in Van Buren Township, Grant County, Indiana, January 1, 1864, and is a son of James and Nancy (Jones) Boxell.

The Boxell is one of the old pioneer families of this section of Indiana. The grandfather, John Boxell, walked the entire distance from Pennsylvania to Grant County, Indiana, carrying with him his kit of shoemaker's tools. He entered land in Van Buren Township and lived on the same during the rest of his life. James Boxell, father of Ezekiel, was born in Van Buren Township, Grant County, March 4, 1841, and still lives there. He was twice married and fifteen children were born to his first union, nine of whom are living, and three to his second.

Ezekiel Boxell was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools. Until he was twenty-one years of age he remained on the home farm, without wages, and then started out for himself and worked for neighboring farmers for a stated sum. After his marriage he lived on the home farm for one year and then moved to Huntington County and rented a farm there for thirteen years and then bought his farm in Jackson Township and moved on it in 1901. He has over eighty-five acres here, well improved with substantial buildings, and also owns eighty acres in Salamonie Township, Huntington County.

Mr. Boxell was married in 1887 to Miss Margaret Gephart, who was born in Preble County, Ohio, and was brought to Jackson Township, Wells County, by her parents when she was an infant of four months and has spent the greater part of her life here. Mr. and Mrs. Boxell have five children, namely: Jacob A., James E., Lewis E., Nova P., who is the wife of Clyde Riggs, and Charles E., all of whom have had educational opportunities and all are common school graduates with one exception. The sons give their father assistance in carrying on the farm industries and are fine, sturdy young men who reflect credit on their family and community.

In his political views Mr. Boxell is a democrat and, without desiring any political honors for himself, has always been a hearty and loyal supporter of his party's candidates. The entire family belongs to the Christian Church.

Coat Cook for many years was one of the most industrious and capable farmer citizens of Root Township. His life has been productive in many ways, and among the retired people of Decatur none enjoy greater esteem than Mr. and Mrs. Coat Cook. They have lived at Decatur since the spring of 1911.

Their farm in Root Township, which he still owns, was their home from 1881. It consists of 121 acres of land, and most of the improvements were made by Mr. and Mrs. Cook, including two substantial barns and a good house. It is some of the best land in the county. Mr. Cook also owns his good home in Decatur. He has been a resident of Adams County since 1852, settling at that time when a boy of eleven on a tract of wild land at the old community known as Cooktown, just west of Decatur. Mr. Cook was born in Medina County, Ohio, February 12, 1841, and is a son of German parents, Frederick and Margaret (Schafer) Cook. Both parents were born in Germany. They came before their marriage to this country. Frederick Cook set out for America several years before Miss Schafer. He was ninety days in crossing the ocean by sailing vessel, and both he and his wife located at Cleveland, Ohio, where they married. They then settled in Medina County and went to work on a farm not far from Liverpool. About 1852 they came to what is now Washington Township of Adams County and their home became

the center of the community which was named in their honor Cooktown. Frederick Cook died there at the age of seventy-seven and his wife at seventy-six. They were active members of the Evangelical Church and in politics he was a democrat. In their family were four sons and four daughters, all of whom grew up but one and all married but two. Mr. Coat Cook has two living sisters, Mrs. Anna Bailey of Wells County, mother of two sons, Charles and Medford; and Mrs. Catherine Gross, of Quincy, Illinois, mother of one son and several daughters.

Mr. Coat Cook married in Decatur Mary Bartling. She was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, May 23, 1846, and when eight years of age her parents William and Christina (Heitzman) Bartling moved to Delaware County, Ohio, and still later came to Decatur, Indiana. Her parents were both natives of Germany and had come when young people to the United States. They met and married in Hamilton County. William Bartling was a very skilled miller by trade and that occupation caused several changes of residence. From Decatur he moved to Marshall County, Indiana, where his wife died, and he spent his last days in Richmond, Indiana, where he died when quite an old man. He and his wife were active members of the United Brethren Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook have reared a family of capable sons and daughters. The oldest is William F., now forty-seven, who has never married and is still at home with his parents. Ida is the wife of Lemuel Fisher of Paw Paw, Michigan, a farmer there, and their children are Naomi, Irene, Erwin, Forest and Trulu. The son Charles A. lives on and occupies the old homestead farm. By his marriage to Cora Faust he has two children, Dorothy and Donald. Aurora C. is the wife of Harlow Mann, a farmer in Root Township, and their children are Florence, Mildred now deceased, Leroy, Carl, Clifford, Louise and Woodrow Wilson. The son David G. is a farmer in the State of Colorado and by his marriage to Mary Mumma of Decatur he has two children, Arthur and Charlotte B. Edith is the wife of John Singleton, an auctioneer living at Albion, Indiana, and their children are Hubert, Erma, Arthur, Lelah and Phylius Faye.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook have found many interests in life in addition to their farm and their family. They are very prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Mrs. Cook being active in the Aid Society, the Home and Foreign Missions and is also identified with the Red Cross. Mr. Cook in politics supports the prohibition cause and his wife is one of the prominent workers in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Henry H. Huff. A prominent and prosperous citizen of Wells County, and one of the foremost agriculturists of Jackson Township, Henry H. Huff holds a position of note among the sturdy, energetic and successful farmers who have a thorough knowledge of the vocation they are following, and are carrying it on with both profit and pleasure His valuable farm is well ditched, and with its substantial improvements is recognized as one of the most attractive and desirable estates in the township. A son of John Huff, he was born February 13, 1858, in Grant County, Indiana.

Born and reared in Guernsey County, Ohio, John Huff came to Indiana when young, locating in Grant County. When ready to begin life for himself he bought land in Van Buren Township, and was there employed in general farming throughout his remaining years. He married Mary Zuck, who was born in Pennsylvania and is now living in Grant County, Indiana. Eleven children were born into their household, as follows: Elizabeth, wife of Noah Pence; William, deceased, served

one or more terms as trustee of Van Buren Township; Hiram A. of Landersville, Indiana; Sarah, wife of William Sala, of Dundee, Indiana; Henry H., of whom we write; Mary J., wife of Henry Losure of Van Buren; John M., a barber at Marion, Indiana; Emma, wife of Robert Pilkington of Van Buren; Charles C., now teaching in Van Buren, has taught school for thirty-four years, and is widely known as an educator; Etta, widow of David Cronin; and Homer, a former resident of Oklahoma, but now in Iowa.

Until seven years old, Henry H. Huff lived on the home farm, lying two miles west and one mile south of Van Buren, but he afterward lived in the vicinity of Landersville, and was educated in the district schools. At the age of twenty-one years he began the struggle of life on his own account as a farmer in Van Buren Township, where he continued for twenty-four years. Coming then to Jackson Township, Wells County, Mr. Huff bought his present farm of 160 acres, and in the substantial improvements that he has since made takes much pride. His land is under a high state of culture, and owing to the sound judgment and persistent energy with which he has managed it is now one of the most valuable and desirable pieces of property in the neighborhood, his buildings being of a substantial character, and his residence the finest in its appointments of any in the township.

On May 28, 1883, Mr. Huff married Eura E. Love, a native of Washington Township, Grant County, Indiana. Of the seven children born of their union, five are living, namely: Ned L., a graduate of the Van Buren High School, and of the Marion Normal College, married Goldia Bugh, and is now on the home farm; Jessie, a graduate of the Van Buren High School, is wife of Henry Jones; Dema a graduate of the high school and of Muncie Normal College, and a former high school teacher, married Robert Lambert, superintendent of the public schools in Reynolds, Indiana; Pauline and Chester, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Huff are members of the Church of Christ, at Warren. In his political relations, Mr. Huff is a democrat, and while in Van Buren served as justice of the peace. Fraternally he is a member of Van Buren Lodge No. 633, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Marion Lodge, Knights of the Maccabees.

John W. Banter. One of the many energetic and progressive men actively engaged in cultivating the rich and fertile soil of Wells County, John W. Banter has brought to his independent calling an excellent knowledge of agriculture, sound judgment, and good business methods, and is meeting with well deserved success in his labors. A son of the late Joseph Banter, he was born in Jackson Township, Wells County, on the farm which he now owns and occupies, it being located on the northeast quarter of the west half of section 30, the date of his birth being April 18, 1863.

Joseph Banter was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and as a young man came to Wells County, Indiana, settling in section 30, Jackson Township, where he followed general farming until his death. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Almira Jeffery, ten children were born, four of whom are living: George of Mendon, Ohio; Mary, wife of F. B. Knight; John W., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; and Dudley of Grant County, Indiana.

As a boy John W. Banter attended the district schools, and under his father's instructions became familiar with the different branches of agriculture. Since assuming possession of the home estate he has managed it with the same vigorous ability and varied skill that charac-

terized his father, and by adding to the improvements previously inaugurated has materially increased its value.

Mr. Banter married Lillie A. Herring. She was born in 1866, in Ada, Ohio, and as a girl came with her parents to Wells County, Indiana, where she was bred, educated and married. Mr. and Mrs. Banter have ten children, namely: Samuel F., who is married, is engaged in farming in Grant County, Indiana; Harley, also married, is a farmer in Jackson Township; Walter, single, lives at home, and has charge of the farm; Roy, employed in the oil fields of Oklahoma; Mary, wife of C. C. Cloud of Illinois; Elsie, a graduate of the Van Buren High School, is in Oklahoma; Zada, who is a graduate of the Van Buren High School; Oscar, a schoolboy; and Jay and Jason, twins. Politically Mr. Banter is a firm advocate of the principles of the democratic party, and religiously both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

Milton E. Hower. One of the leading merchants of Decatur, prominent in social and fraternal circles, Milton E. Hower, proprietor of the "Home of Quality Groceries," is located on West Monroe Street, near the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Station, where he has one of the finest and most modernly equipped business houses in Adams County. He erected his commodious and conveniently arranged building in 1910, on a block 186 feet deep, it being twenty-five feet by eighty feet, with a large and well-equipped basement, into which all stock supplies are taken by a conveyor from the street, and kept in storage until needed on the shelves. Here he has installed a 500-gallon gasoline tank underground, with a curb attachment for filling, and every room and hall in the building is lighted by electricity, nothing in the furnishing of the place being omitted that would add to its utility. A son of Adam Hower, he was born in Peterson, Adams County, December 31, 1871, of early pioneer stock.

Mr. Hower's paternal grandfather, Andrew Hower, was born and bred in Pennsylvania, and as a young man ventured as far west as Ohio. In the early '40s, he came to Adams County, Indiana, locating on a tract of heavily timbered land in Kirkland Township. In common with the other pioneers of that day, he labored with unceasing toil to improve a homestead, at the same time being an important factor in developing the resources of the county. Wild turkey, deer and other game were abundant, helping supply the family larder, and the women of the household did their full share of pioneer work, raising the sheep, and carding, spinning and weaving into cloth the wool obtained, and by their own hands fashioned the clothes worn by the family, including the adults as well as the children. On the farm which he had cleared, Andrew Hower and his wife, formerly a Miss Buroaker, spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring when he was but sixty years old, and hers several years later. They were God-fearing people, liberal and open-hearted, and ever ready to lend aid to the poor and needy. They reared five children, as follows: Noah, now living, is married and has a family; John, died, leaving four children; Elizabeth Ann, widow of John Sovine, lives in Wells County and has sons and daughters; Adam, mentioned below; and Henry, who died in the west, leaving a family.

Adam Hower was born in December, 1838, in Ashley County, Ohio, but grew to manhood in Kirkland Township, where he assisted in the pioneer task of redeeming a farm from the wilderness. He bought land in Washington Township later in life, and on his well-improved farm of forty acres he lived until 1913 when he moved to St. Mary's

Township. He is now almost four score years of age. His wife, whose maiden name was Alcena Steele, was born in Washington Township in 1842, being the youngest of a family of children born to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Steele, thrifty and active pioneers of that township, who there spent their last days, Mr. Steele dying at the age of eighty-seven years, while she attained the venerable age of ninety-four years. Nearly all of their children grew up and married, and several of their sons served in the Civil war, two being killed on the field of battle.

Acquiring a good education when young, practically in the schools of Pleasant Mills, Milton E. Hower entered upon a professional career at the age of twenty years as a teacher in District No. 6, Washington Township, and for eight years taught in the country schools. Subsequently he taught in Decatur for two years, being principal of the West Ward School one year, and of the South Ward School the same length of time. Abandoning the teacher's desk, Mr. Hower embarked in the grocery business in 1899, locating in Decatur, where he is still in active business, his present fine store building being the second one that he has occupied in the city, the other one having been located on different corners of Seventh and Monroe streets.

Mr. Hower has been twice married. He married first Mary E. Stevens, an orphan, born and educated in Adams County. She died in Decatur, in 1902, aged thirty-two years. Two children were born of their union, namely: Frech C., now in the store with his father, married in August, 1917, Ercie Butler, who was born in Tipton County, Indiana, twenty-one years ago, but was bred and educated in Decatur; the other child died in infancy. Mr. Hower married second, in Decatur, Maud A. Scott. She was born in August, 1881, in Mount Etna, Indiana, a daughter of David E. Scott, a prominent politician of Huntington County. Of this marriage, four daughters have been born, namely: Marcella A., Geraldine E., B. Isabelle, and Eleanor Catherine. Mr. Hower and his family are Methodists in religion, and active in church work. Fraternally Mr. Hower is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Loyal Order of Moose.

Joshua R. Parrish. Distinguished not only for the pioneer ancestry from which he is descended, and for his work as one of the earlier educators of Adams County, but for his splendid record as a brave and gallant soldier in the Civil war, Joshua R. Parrish of Decatur, a retired farmer, well deserves honorable mention in a work of this character, and it gives us pleasure to place herein a brief sketch of his life. A native of Ohio, he was born, August 13, 1835, in Tuscarawas County, a son of John Parrish.

His paternal grandfather, Joshua Parrish, was born and bred in Belmont County, Ohio, and was there united in marriage with Sarah Rulin. Subsequently removing to Tuscarawas County, he took up a tract of land that was still in its virginal wildness, and on the farm that he cleared he and his wife spent their remaining days, both living to be upwards of three score years of age. At their deaths, their bodies were first interred in the family plot on the home farm, but were subsequently removed to the little cemetery in the churchyard, both having been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he was affiliated with the old whig party.

John Parrish was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1813, and as child was taken to Tuscarawas County, where he was educated and married. A tiller of the soil, he carried on farming in his native state during the earlier years of his life. About 1850, accompanied by his

wife and seven children, he came to Adams County, Indiana, locating in Washington Township. Buying land from the Government, he soon made an opening in which he erected a log cabin for himself and family. All of this part of the county was then a comparative wilderness, the pioneer settlers subsisting principally on the wild game that everywhere abounded, and on the scant revenue they received from the black salts they made from the ashes obtained from the timber burned when clearing up their homesteads, and putting the land in a productive condition. He improved a good farm, and continued his residence upon it until his death, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was a public-spirited citizen, interested in public matters, and after the formation of the know-nothing party became identified with the democratic party. He married Margaret Johnson, who was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Archbold) Johnson, who came from Ohio to Adams County, Indiana, with their children, and spent their first years on a farm in Washington Township. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters. Two of the children were born in Adams County; seven grew to years of maturity, and were married; and two sons and two daughters are still living.

The eldest child of the parental household, Joshua R. Parrish, was a youth of fifteen years when he came with the family to Washington Township. He completed his early education after coming here, and at the age of twenty-two years entered upon a professional career, taking charge of a public school in Kirkland Township, and subsequently teaching in the same school building until 1862.

In August of that year, his patriotic ardor being aroused, Mr. Parrish, leaving his wife and seven months old boy, Jay Newton, enlisted in Company H, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under command of Col. C. D. Murray, and was immediately ordered to the front. At Munfordville, Kentucky, he first met the enemy in battle, and his regiment, with three others, was forced to surrender, but on certain conditions were allowed to move back to a river under guard. Governor Morton then furloughed Mr. Parrish and his comrades home for a period of twenty days. Being in the meantime exchanged, he was then sent south, and took part in many important engagements. On April 9, 1864, at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, Mr. Parrish received what was regarded as a mortal wound, a minnie ball passing through his groin, and lodging in his back. He was left to die on the field of battle, but having fortunately been found by his two brothers, Joseph L. and Abner S., who were members of the same regiment and company, he was rolled into an ambulance, and carried thirty miles to a hospital, where, four days later, the bullet was removed, and he began to recuperate, the operation by which it was removed having been performed in New Orleans. When fully recovered from his serious operation, Mr. Parrish rejoined his command and at the battle of Nashville, Tennessee, helped defeat General Hood. On July 28, 1865, he was honorably discharged from the service, with a record for bravery of which he may well be proud.

Returning home, Mr. Parrish began farming on his little estate of forty acres, and since then has cleared the timber from 240 acres of land, and sold it at a profit. For the past seventeen years he has lived retired from business cares in Decatur, having a pleasant home at No. 607 West Jefferson Street. He is a steadfast adherent of the democratic party, and for twenty-three years he served faithfully and efficiently as township assessor.

Mr. Parrish married, in Adams County, Indiana, Deborah Russell, who was born in Washington Township, February 9, 1839, and died at

her home in Decatur, October 19, 1917. Her father, William Russell, was accidentally killed at the early age of twenty-five years, when out hunting, having been mistaken for a deer by another hunter, who fired the shot that made his death instantaneous. The following children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Parrish, namely: Jay Newton, who died in 1913, leaving a widow and two children; Ada K., wife of Charles Paling, who occupies the old Paling homestead, has one son and two daughters; Mary A., wife of Emerson Beavers, in furniture business at Decatur, has two children, a son and a daughter; John R., principal of the North Ward School, is married, and has a son and a daughter; Anna, deceased, was the wife of the late Leo Annan; Marion F., living with his father, married Addie Yocum, and they have two children, Richard K. and Miles. Mr. Parrish is a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mrs. Parrish also belonged, and he is a member and past commander of the Samuel Henry Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic, which he served for many years as chaplain.

Carry R. Runkle's home is one of the best improved farms in Jackson Township of Wells County. It is situated in section 23, and in that locality he has lived practically all his life and has given to farming the same intelligent management which manufacturers give to their factory and merchants to their stores.

Mr. Runkle was born in Jackson Township, September 8, 1868, a son of Peter and Mary M. (Bevington) Runkle, both natives of Ohio and of a prominent family of old time residents in Wells County. There were three children: Carry R., Charles S., now deceased, and Essie E., wife of C. E. Proper.

Carry R. Runkle was reared on the old homestead in Jackson Township, attended the district schools, and learned and practiced the lessons of agriculture under his father's direction until his marriage to Miss Maggie M. Mock, daughter of John Mock. Four children were born to them and three are still living: Clayton E., a graduate of the common schools, who married Lulu Kilander; Hazel, who is a graduate of the common schools and wife of Charles Hide, who was born on the old Hide farm in Wells County; Paul F., a graduate of the common schools, married Viola Gilbert.

Mr. Runkle has a farm of 130 acres and has kept up its reputation for good crops and good livestock of all kinds. He and his family are members of the Church of Christ at Perry Creek Center, and he has always been active in church matters. He is affiliated with Montpelier Lodge No. 188, Knights of Pythias, and is an influential republican, having served as precinct committeeman of Jackson Township.

Herbert F. Smith. Distinguished not only as a native born citizen of Liberty Township, and as one of its trustees, but for the important part he has played in developing and advancing the highest and best interests of this section of Wells County, Herbert F. Smith is eminently deserving of honorable mention in a work of this character. A son of the late Eli Smith, he was born November 11, 1872, in Liberty Township, about a mile north of his present home.

Born and reared in Pennsylvania, Eli Smith came to Indiana when young, and after being variously employed settled permanently on a farm in Liberty Township. He was a natural mechanic, expert in the use of tools, and acquired local fame not only as an agriculturist, but for his dexterity in using the broad ax. He married Emma Reiseau, a native of Indiana, and they became the parents of four children, namely:

Bina, wife of J. W. Jackson of Liberty Township; Herbert F., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; Charles W., of Bluffton, a painter and decorator; and Bertha J., wife of Oden Hughes of Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Having laid a substantial foundation for his future education in the schools of his native township, Herbert F. Smith continued his studies in the State Normal School. Entering upon a professional career at the age of eighteen years, he taught school for one term in Nottingham Township, and later taught five years in Liberty Township, for two years serving as principal of the Poneto schools, as an educator meeting with flattering success. Turning his attention then to agriculture, Mr. Smith located on his present place in Liberty Township, and has since carried on general farming with highly satisfactory results. He makes a specialty of raising fancy White Wyandotte chickens, and as a poultry raiser is eminently successful. He is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank, which is one of the leading financial institutions of the kind in the county.

Mr. Smith married, April 28, 1900, Edith Stahl and into their attractive home two children have been born, namely: Joseph E., born February 28, 1908; and Stahl R., who died in infancy. Politically Mr. Smith is a straightforward democrat, active in public affairs, having served two terms as county commissioner, and having been elected township trustee in 1914 for a term of four years. Fraternally he is a member of Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and both he and Mrs. Smith are members of the Daughters of Rebekah.

James B. Griffith. Not every family in Wells County can claim the distinction of living on land that has never been out of the family since it was secured from the Government, three generations ago, but such claim may be made by James B. Griffith, who is one of the representative citizens and public officials of Jackson Township. He owns the old home of his pioneer grandfather, John Griffith, who came here in early times with his four sons. The name suggests a Welsh origin, but as far back as Mr. Griffith traces it reaches only to Ohio, and it was from the great Western Reserve that John Griffith and his boys came into what was then practically a wilderness. Here the family took root and has prospered.

On the farm he now owns in Jackson Township, Wells County, James B. Griffith was born, July 5, 1855. His parents were Eli and Mary J. (Burkett) Griffith. His father was born in Perry County, Ohio, and his mother in Pennsylvania. After coming to Jackson Township, they spent the rest of their lives here. They had a family of eleven children and nine of these reached maturity and three yet survive, namely: A. P. Griffith, who lives at Van Buren, Indiana; Catherine, who is the widow of John W. Palmer of Jackson Township; and James B.

James B. Griffith obtained his education in the district schools and remained with his parents and was a good son in their declining years. He has been a farmer all his life and by carefully looking after his farm industries, has become a man of ample means. He has eighty acres of finely developed land which he devotes to general farm production, and in times of national distress, as a loyal and patriotic citizen, neglects no means whereby he can make his products still larger in amount.

Mr. Griffith was married March 12, 1885, to Miss Etta B. Stallard,

who was born and educated in Wells County. They have a family of eight children, as follows: Georgia is the wife of Ira Kaines; Chauncy is married and lives in Kansas; Ethel, who is a graduate of Warren High School, is the wife of Richard Tucker and lives in Oklahoma; Hazel, who is a graduate of the high school department of the Marion Normal School, is a successful and popular teacher; Ammon lives in Kansas; Ernest makes his home in Oklahoma; Fern is a graduate of the Warren High School; and Merlin K. attends the local schools.

In politics Mr. Griffith is a sound democrat and exerts considerable influence in party affairs in this section. He has been elected to different local offices and in 1909 was elected trustee of Jackson Township and served continuously on the board until 1915, during a very important period of improvement in the township. He is looked upon as one of the township's most dependable men.

L. C. Waring was a railroad man for the most part until he came to Decatur in 1903 and established the Waring Glove Company. From a small plant, with an output used only locally, Mr. Waring has developed a business that is now probably the largest of its kind in Indiana and with an output distributed all over the United States and in Canada.

His first shop was on North Second Street. Later it was moved to the corner of First and Monroe streets and in 1912 he erected the present large plant on Monroe Street, a two-story fireproof and basement structure, with a frontage of 60 feet and depth of 100 feet. The factory has room and facilities for the employment of 125 persons, and about seventy-five people have been kept busy there for several years. The Waring Glove Factory manufactures gloves and mittens of canton flannel, husky cloth and jersey cloth. The capacity of the Decatur plant is about 1,000 daily, and their goods have been kept up to a high standard of excellence and the business has been developed with this standard of quality as its chief asset. Several commercial salesmen represent the company with territory throughout the United States and Canada.

The Waring Glove Company had its original establishment at Decatur, but now maintains two branch houses or factories each of which is larger than the parent plant. One of them is at Huntington and the other at Winchester, Indiana.

Mr. L. C. Waring was born at Greenville, Ohio, in 1861, but was reared in the State of Mississippi, where his education was superintended by a governess employed for the family. At the age of fifteen he came north to Indiana and entered the service of a railroad. He was employed in different capacities and at different places, Bluffton, Fort Wayne, Hartford City, again at Bluffton, later at Marion, where he remained some years, and finally returned to Bluffton to engage in business for himself. From there he came to Decatur, and this city has been his home and the scene of his activities for the past fifteen years. Mr. Waring has well earned the reputation which he bears in the community of being one of its best and livest business men.

He is a bachelor. He is a Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and has membership in the Masonic bodies at Bluffton, Fort Wayne and with the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis. He is also a Knight of Pythias. Mr. Waring is a democrat in politics, and a member of the Episcopal Church. Among other business interests he is president of the Schafer Saddlery Company, Decatur, a director in the Old Adams County Bank, and in the First and Hamilton National banks of Fort Wayne.

J. Q. NEPTUNE, D. D. S. Few professional men of Decatur are better known throughout Adams County than is Dr. J. Q. Neptune, who enjoys the distinction of being the oldest dental practitioner in this city, and is also numbered with the substantial agriculturists of the county. There are many interesting features, all creditable, that might be brought forward in making a record of Doctor Neptune's progress from early indigent circumstances to his present financial and social status. He comes of sturdy old pioneer stock, and no one has more reason to take pride in a family's military record, his father having been a brave and faithful soldier in the Civil war, and his youngest son, at the present moment, being one of General Pershing's brave command "somewhere in France."

J. Q. Neptune was born August 8, 1859, in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, on his grandfather's old homestead, later owned by his father and now owned by Doctor Neptune, never being out of the Neptune name since entered from the Government. His grandparents were William and Lydia (Beaman) Neptune. The grandfather was born in eastern Ohio, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and the grandmother was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Possibly it was 1834 when they first came to Adams County and settled in St. Mary's Township, their first home being a "lean-to" built against a large log. They came from Ohio with wagon and team and fortunately brought two fine milch cows for they found little to subsist on in the new home at first. The grandfather had been a distiller and was well-to-do before he lost his fortune. In the fall of 1835 he built a substantial log cabin on his land which he cleared off before his death. He had children, and one of his sons, James Ira, became the father of Doctor Neptune.

James Ira Neptune was born in Ohio and was eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Adams County, Indiana. When the Civil war came on he entered the Union army as a drummer boy in Company K, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. At one time he was captured by the Confederates with his regiment, but was paroled and finally exchanged, and he immediately returned to his command and served through three years. Many times his life was endangered, but he escaped all serious injury and lived to return to his home, where his death occurred in 1904. In 1852 he made the trip to California, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and passed through many adventures while in the mining districts. He was married first to Lorena Jacobs, who belonged to an old county family, and they had one child, Louisa. His second marriage was to Mrs. Isabelle (Flagg) Barnhart. She is a daughter of Samuel Flagg and wife, who came to Adams County as the first pioneers on St. Mary's River and lived for a time with friends on what was known as the Devil's Backbone. Samuel Flagg later became a merchant and tavern keeper in Decatur. He died at the age of eighty-one. By her first marriage, the mother of Doctor Neptune had one daughter, Mary Celestia Barnhart, who is the wife of John Bradlock, who was one of the youngest soldiers enlisted for the Civil war from Adams County. They have nine children and live in Nebraska. Five sons and four daughters were born to the second marriage of James Neptune. J. Q., C. R. (Dick), and Frances, wife of ex-Attorney General N. G. Denman of Toledo, Ohio, are living. The deceased are Lovinia, Harry, Curtis, Samuel Oren, Latell Annota, and one died in infancy. The mother of Doctor Neptune lives in the Town of Willshire, Van Wert County, Ohio, and is now aged eighty-three years.

In his boyhood Doctor Neptune had very few advantages, times being hard. The youth was ambitious and early determined to learn the

profession in which he has become eminent, but in large measure he had to make his own opportunities for schooling and progress in the direction he wished to go and these often entailed self-denial and wounds to his pride that were hard to bear. However he never turned back and the time came when he reached his goal and on March 6, 1886, he was most creditably graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Cincinnati. On June 9, 1886, he came to Dectaur and opened an office on Second Street, where he remained for twelve years, and for ten years his brother, Dr. C. R. (Dick) Neptune, was associated with him, the latter now having a separate office. Doctor Neptune in 1898 moved to his present location, in the Spangler Block, on East Second Street, where he has fine accommodations, including a waiting room, an operating room and a laboratory, all connected. His equipments are those made use of by modern dentists and his treatments are according to the latest scientific discoveries in dental surgery.

Doctor Neptune was married first to Miss Clara Counterman, who was born at Willshire, Van Wert County, Ohio, and died at Decatur in 1906. She was a lady of education and refinement and for seven years prior to her marriage had been a school teacher in Ohio. She was the mother of two sons, both of whom survive: Gregg C., who is a graduate of the Northwestern Dental School and is now in practice in the city of Winnipeg, Canada, with bright professional prospects; and James Glenn, who served first on the Mexican border and became a seasoned and well trained soldier and was a member of the contingent selected to accompany General Pershing to France for service in the World war.

Doctor Neptune married for his second wife Celeste Kintz, a lady of great musical talent and leading member of the choir in the Roman Catholic Church, of which body she is a member. Doctor and Mrs. Neptune have three children: E. Isabel, Mary D. and Robert Jean.

In addition to his large practice, Doctor Neptune's income is considerably derived from other sources, for he has additional interests. He owns 180 acres, all in one tract, situated in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, which farm is well improved and very productive. He also owns his grandfather's old farm of forty acres, situated in the same township.

Doctor Neptune, like his talented wife, is very musical, and is especially proficient as a player on the snare drum, and has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church choir for thirty years. He has long been active in the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the Council, and for twenty years has had charge of the musical programs for the lodges, and also for public occasions, such as Decoration Day and other meetings of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is an interested and generous member of this religious body at Decatur. Visitors to his office and home may be permitted to examine a very large and interesting collection that the doctor has made, some of these being old family relics and others curiosities brought from distant parts. He values the drum sticks which his father beat on the snare drum as he marched toward the enemy, a drummer boy, so many years ago. A number of game trophies may also be noticed decorating the walls. His friends know that these have been secured through Doctor Neptune's own prowess during his periods of recreation, when he hunts wild game in the northwest and the Rocky Mountains.

Mathias Kirsch, who has been actively identified with the business and civic life of Decatur for the past thirty years, is cashier and

one of the organizers of the People's Loan and Trust Company of Decatur.

This is one of the flourishing financial institutions of Adams County. It was organized and began business on January 2, 1915. The first officers were James Rupel of Bryant, Indiana, president (now deceased); John LaFollette of Portland, Indiana, vice president; Mathias Kirsch, cashier; and W. A. Lower, secretary. Mr. Kirsch was elected to the office of president to succeed Mr. Rupel and the vice president now is H. M. Gillig. The bank still retains its original capital stock of $50,000, and though in existence less than three years its prosperity and growth have been nothing less than remarkable. At the beginning of its second year its resources had climbed to over a hundred eighty-two thousand dollars, at the beginning of the third year to approximately two hundred seventy-eight thousand dollars, while in June, 1917, the reported resources were almost three hundred thirty thousand dollars. The bank pays four per cent interest on time deposits and the growth and prosperity of the institution are proof of the wisdom of its founders. The management throughout has conducted the business with special emphasis upon safety and service, and while it has all the facilities for the service of a general banking institution, it also provides safety by insuring all the money deposited in its keeping.

Mr. Kirsch is a banker and business man of wide experience. For eight years before entering the People's Loan and Trust Company he was vice president of the Old Adams County Bank. He has been in the lumber business at Decatur for thirty years, and is still carrying on a big business in that line, with extensive retail yards handling building materials and supplies, builders hardware, lumber, etc. He engaged in the lumber business at Decatur in 1887. Prior to entering the lumber business in Decatur he was in the mercantile business in Bellmont, Wabash County, Illinois, for about eleven years.

Mr. Kirsch was born in the beautiful old City of Heidelberg, Germany, August 17, 1856. He comes of an old family of Baden people. His grandfather, Adam Kirsch, was born in 1805. Two sons of Adam, Christoph and Carl, came to America about 1848. They crossed the ocean in sailing vessels, being several weeks en route, and first landed at New York City. Carl was a teacher by profession and first located at Pittburgh, but later came to Indiana and was a successful educator for fifty years. He died a number of years ago, leaving a family of children. Christoph Kirsch separated from his brother and went to the mining districts of Lake Superior. He was there four years, and then planned to go out to California and become a gold miner. In the meantime he went back to New York, and while there decided to return to the old country for a visit. A good many years passed before he saw America again. In Baden he fell in love with a young woman of that country, Katharina Stern, a native of Baden and of old German stock. They married and for several years continued to live in Germany. The children born to them were Barbara, Mathias, Peter and Catherina. In 1868 the entire family, together with Christoph's father, Adam, came to America. They embarked on the boat Saxonia, a combined sailing and steamship, and after a voyage of fourteen days landed in New York City. From there they came west to Fort Wayne and soon afterwards settled in Preble Township of Adams County. Here Christoph Kirsch bought a partly improved farm. On that old homestead the grandfather, Adam Kirsch, passed away in 1880. His wife had died in Germany in 1859 in middle age. In the old country the family were Evangelical Protestants, but after coming to Indiana became affiliated with the German Reformed Church. As American citizens all the male members of the family became democrats. Grandfather Adam Kirsch

had three other sons who also came to America, Valentine, Peter and Adam, Jr. Adam is still living. Valentine served as a soldier in the American Civil war, going through as a private, and died at the age of eighty-three years in Illinois. His brother, Peter, is also deceased, having married and leaving a family. Adam is a farmer in the state of Minnesota and has a family.

Christoph Kirsch and wife in their latter years lived retired at Decatur, where he died at the age of seventy-one and she at the age of seventy. Christof was born in 1828 and his wife in 1833. Their two daughters are both now deceased, but were married and left families. The sons, Peter, John and Mathias are all living and all married and have childen. Peter is a resident of Decatur, while John has his home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Mathias Kirsch married at Fort Wayne an Adams County girl, Amanda Langenbacher. She was born in Adams County June 20, 1857, and was reared and educated here in the public schools. Her father, Mathias Langenbacher, was a native of Baden, Germany, and in the old country learned the trade of clock maker. He followed that trade to some extent in Indiana, but after his marriage engaged in farming in Preble Township, and he died at the age of seventy-eight, in Decatur. His wife's maiden name was Harriet Spangler. She was a native of Ohio, and died also in Decatur, at the age of seventy-four. The Langenbachers were active members of the Reformed Church. Mrs. Kirsch had one sister, Sarah, wife of A. H. Sellemeyer of Decatur. They have two children, Jesse and Esther. Esther is now in China as a missionary. Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch have three children: Della was born at Bellmont, Illinois, was educated in Decatur and is the wife of Fred Reppert. They have two children, Helen O. and Rollin M. Otto L., the older son of Mr. Kirsch is manager of his father's lumber business. He married Miss E. Selig of Fort Wayne. The youngest child, Harold E., has completed his education and is assisting his brother in the lumber business. The family are all members of the Reformed Church, in which Mr. Kirsch has served as an elder for thirty years. He is a democrat in politics.

Albert D. Hunsicker. Energetic, industrious and well acquainted with modern business methods, Albert D. Hunsicker of Decatur, Adams County, has a well-stocked grocery in that city, and is rapidly building up a lucrative trade in western Indiana and eastern Ohio, being well liked by all classes of people. A son of David Hunsicker, he was born in Decatur, January 31, 1882, of German ancestry.

His paternal grandfather, Gavrette Hunsicker, was born in Pennsylvania, of substantial German stock. Early in life he came to Indiana, and having established himself permanently in Monroeville, Adams County, was there engaged in the draying business the greater part of his active life, living there until his death, in 1914, at the age of four score years. He was a democrat in politics, and belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which his wife was also a member. He married Catherine Hiser, who was born in Pennsylvania, and died in 1916 in Bluffton, Indiana, at the home of her son, Henry, when about eighty years old. They were the parents of four children, as follows: A son that died in infancy; David, father of Albert D. of this sketch; Henry, living in Bluffton, Indiana, is married, but has no children; and Allie, wife of Charles Myers of Fort Wayne, lost her only child, a daughter, that died in young womanhood.

Having obtained his early education in Monroeville, David Hunsicker began life there as a drayman. Coming from there to Adams County, he was for fifteen years engaged in the grocery business in Decatur, after which he traveled on the road as commercial salesman for

a while. On the completion of the Fort Wayne & Springfield Traction Company's road, he accepted his present position as conductor, and in the years that have since elapsed he has been very fortunate, never having had an accident of any kind.

The maiden name of the wife of David Hunsicker was Catherine Ahr. She was born in Adams County, Indiana, in 1857, a daughter of Jacob and Mary A. (Blocher) Ahr, the former of whom was a native of Germany, while the latter was born in Ohio, of German parents. Pioneer settlers of Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ahr cleared and improved a farm in Adams County, and there lived to a good old age, honored and respected people. Of their family of six daughters and two sons, two daughters are dead, and the other children are married, and have pleasant homes of their own. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. David Hunsicker, who have been residents of Decatur for many years, four children were born, as follows: Albert D.; Dallas A.; Vera, wife of Owen Davis of Decatur; and Ada, who died in early life.

Albert D. Hunsicker obtained his first mercantile knowledge and experience behind the counter in his father's store, in Decatur. Subsequently, in company with his brother, Dallas A. Hunsicker, he was for five years engaged in the bakery and confectionery business in the same city. Disposing of his interest in the firm, Mr. Hunsicker was in the employ of Everett & Hite from June, 1913, until he opened his present store, while there obtaining a practical insight into the details of the wholesale grocery business. Establishing himself in Decatur, on Second Street, in December, 1916, Mr. Hunsicker opened his store, which is finely stocked with a varied assortment of the best line of staple groceries to be found in any market, and has met with genuine success in his business efforts, his business being in a flourishing condition, with a constantly increasing trade.

Mr. Hunsicker married, in Belding, Michigan, Emma Fisher, who was born near that city, June 25, 1885, a daughter of John and Josephine (Breninger) Fisher, natives respectively of Ohio and Michigan, but both of German ancestry. Mr. Fisher was engaged in the manufacture of lumber for many years, owning and operating a sawmill, and also being a tiller of the soil, but he and his wife are now living retired in Michigan, their home being in Marion. They reared two children, Mrs. Hunsicker, and a son, Joseph Fisher, who is married, and lives on the old home farm with his wife and daughter, Althea, a child of nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Hunsicker have two children, namely: Leona V., born in 1904; and Donald D. Mr. and Mrs. Hunsicker are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and contribute liberally towards its support. Fraternally Mr. Hunsicker is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Mrs. Hunsicker belongs to the Daughters of Rebekah.

ANDREW MILLER. The roster of agriculturists of Adams County who have participated prominently in the movements which have served to bring about the progress and advancement of this section of the state would be incomplete without the name of Andrew Miller, who, though now living retired in Decatur, has for many years been interested in farming and stock raising in Washington Township, which is owned by his sons. Mr. Miller's town home is at 266 South Fourth Street.

A young man who had been over from the old country only a few years, and whose experience had netted him little financial capital, Andrew Miller located in section 10 of Washington Township, December 31, 1873. With his brother Paul he acquired a tract of wild woodland, and their united labors cleared away a space for their first home and

gradually put the land in cultivation by the strenuous process of clearing and draining. In March, 1878, Andrew Miller sold his interest to his brother and bought for himself ninety-seven acres in another part of the same section. This likewise underwent many improvements at his hands, including the erection of a good home and various farm buildings. In 1882 he and his brother bought a seventy-five acre farm, and by subsequent purchases of smaller properties he built up a nice estate, all of which is under cultivation and thoroughly well drained, there being still about sixteen acres of native timber. He also owned another eighty acre farm which he sold to his son, John. Mr. Miller retired from the responsibilities of farming in 1914, and has since lived in Decatur.

He was born near the River Rhine in Bavaria, Germany, April 20, 1849, and is of old Bavarian stock and of Catholic ancestry as far back as the record goes. He is the third successive member of the family to bear the name Andrew, which was also the name of his father and grandfather. Grandfather Andrew was born in Bavaria about 1780 and followed the usual family occupation of farming. He married a girl of the same village, a Miss Wise, who died in the prime of life, leaving eight children, the oldest being fourteen years old. The father kept this family together and reared his children to manhood and womanhood, and all of them married but one. All are now deceased. Grandfather Andrew died at the age of sixty-three years.

Andrew Miller, father of the Adams County resident, was born in Bavaria in 1806 and spent his life in a rural environment. His first wife was a Miss Cline, who was born in a neighboring parish and about the same year as her husband. She died at the birth of her second child, and both children died in infancy. Andrew afterwards married Margaret Letcher, who was born and reared in the same section of Bavaria of Catholic ancestry. These worthy parents continued to live in their native province the rest of their years. The father died in 1882 at the age of sixty-six and the mother in April, 1886. One of their daughters, Elizabeth, unmarried, died January, 1917, in Germany at the age of seventy-one. The other children who remained in Germany are also deceased, and the only two living of the family in this country are Andrew and his brother Paul.

Mr. Andrew Miller grew up in his native Bavaria and acquired the usual education and experience of a southern German boy. When in his twentieth year on October 8, 1869, he embarked on a vessel at Hamburg, the steamship Harmonia, and after a rather speedy voyage for those days landed at Castle Garden on the 26th of October. He was a raw German youth, without any special training, with practically no knowledge of the English tongue, but was ready to meet conditions as they arose and adapt himself to the new land and its people. From New York he went to Buffalo and in that city worked for eight months in a packing house. Continuing westward he reached Sandusky, Ohio, from there went to Norwalk in Huron County, and for a time was employed in a brick yard for a Mr. Garretson in that county. For three years he was a farm hand. After a brief stay in Missouri Mr. Miller returned east and located in Adams County, Indiana, which has now been his home for forty-four years and where he has prospered and become one of the substantial citizens.

In Washington Township he married Miss Mary Tonnellier. She was born in that township February 2, 1851, and his lived in this county practically all her life. Her parents were Nicholas and Margaret (Milliken) Tonnellier, both natives of Alsace, born near Metz of German and French extraction. When they were still young people they

came at different times and by different routes from Havre, France, to America, and met and married at Louisville, Kentucky, moving at once to Adams County, Indiana, where their respective parents had secured some wild land. Mrs. Miller's grandparents died on farms in that township. The parents of Mrs. Miller also spent their lives here, where her father died in 1876. He was born in 1825. Her mother died in 1902 at the age of eighty-six. Her father was a butcher by trade, and for a number of years did butchering for many people in and around Decatur. The Tonnelliers were all active supporters of the Catholic Church. Mrs. Miller was the oldest in a family of three children. Her two brothers are John and Nicholas, the former married and living at Decatur and the other still a bachelor.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have reared a family of children who do credit to the parents and to their early training. The oldest born, Margaret, died in her twenty-fifth year. John is a prosperous young farmer in Washington Township and by his marriage to Rose Kerger has a family of children named Elma, Clarden, Martin and Helena. Mary is the wife of Julius Kohne, a Washington Township farmer, and their children are Leon, Carl, Mary and John. Elizabeth, the wife of Benjamin Eiting of Washington Township, is the mother of Bernard, Katherine, Margaret, Robert and Mary E. Casper, unmarried, is handling the old farm of his father, his active associate being his next younger brother, Peter. Clara C. is still at home and like the other children was well educated in the parochial and public schools. Elnora took the veil on August 15, 1917, and is now known as Sister Priscilla in the order of St. Agnes at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Agnes is now a member of the same convent at Fond du Lac and is a candidate for the duties and responsibilities of a nun.

J. A. Brickley, member of an old and prominent family of Wells County, resident here since the early '50s, has contributed not a little to the prestige of the family name by his individual career as a successful teacher and latterly as a banker at Uniondale.

Mr. Brickley was born in Rock Creek Township of Wells County October 8, 1870, a son of Alfred and Barbara (Haflich) Brickley. His grandfather was George Brickley, who was born in the State of Pennsylvania and when a young man removed to Trumbull County, Ohio. He married there Miss Belinda Wolfcale and they became the parents of ten children. In 1851 the family came to Wells County, locating in section 1 of Rock Creek Township, where George Brickley improved a farm and made it his home for about fifteen years. After that he moved to Huntington County, bought another farm, and died there in 1878 at the age of sixty-seven. Several of his children became well known citizens of Wells County.

Alfred Brickley was born in Ohio, as was his wife, but grew up in Wells County and spent an active and prosperous career as a farmer in Rock Creek Township. He died July 19, 1907, and his wife on April 25, 1916. Their children were: William, deceased; Sarah, deceased; Katherine, who married John Ditzler; Anna, deceased; John Milo; Lewis, who married Alice Nash; Andrew, who married Mary Lang; Mary, who became the wife of John Gardenour; Joshua; Cora; Nettie, deceased; George, who married Alice Crum; and Joshua A.

J. A. Brickley grew up on his father's farm and obtained the larger part of his education in the public schools of Sugar Grove, Rock Creek Township. At the age of twenty he qualified as a teacher, and was actively engaged in educational work in different parts of his native county from 1890 until 1908. He left the schoolroom to take a

place in the State Bank of Uniondale, of which he is now cashier. He has been cashier of that institution since it was organized and is also one of its directors.

Mr. Brickley is affiliated with Uniondale Lodge No. 259, Knights of Pythias, and Ossanippa Tribe No. 357 of the Improved Order of Red Men at Uniondale. He is a democrat in politics and a member of the Lutheran Church.

On November 11, 1911, Mr. Brickley married Miss Cecile Lesh, daughter of James and Sarah (Staver) Lesh of Union Township. The Lesh family have been residents of Wells County for several generations. Mrs. Brickley's brothers and sisters are: O. E. Lesh, who married Margaret Stine; Ada, wife of Ray Bumphrey of Huntington, Indiana; Grace, unmarried; Ella, wife of Amber Orr of Warren, Ohio; and Edna, wife of Charles Kleinknight of Fort Wayne. Mr. and Mrs. Brickley have three children, Darrell K., Ola Irene, and Brooks Franklin.

L. E. Somers, M. D., one of the latest recruits to the medical profession of Wells County, is a man of splendid education, did excellent work as a teacher in earlier years, and is thoroughly devoted to his profession. Although quite a young man, and only recently located at Craigville, his services have received much appreciation in this community.

Doctor Somers was born in Lancaster Township of Wells County April 5, 1888, son of Henry W. and Otta F. (Johnston) Somers. His parents are old residents of Wells County, and still live on their farm in Jefferson Township.

Doctor Somers received his first advantages in School District No. 12 at Greenwood in Jefferson Township. He graduated from the Ossian High School in 1908 and the following year took a normal course at Angola preparatory to teaching. For two years he worked in the country schools of Jefferson Township, and at the end of the first year married Miss Augusta M. Kroder, daughter of Henry and Minnie (Thatcher) Kroder. Her mother is now deceased and her father lives at Clifton, New Jersey. Doctor and Mrs. Somers have one child, Gerald, six years old.

In the fall of 1911 Doctor Somers began the study of medicine and entered the University of Indiana at Bloomington, where he pursued the regular academic course and was graduated Bachelor of Science in 1915. In 1917 he graduated from the University School of Medicine with the degree Doctor of Medicine, and on June 20, 1917, located at Craigville in Lancaster Township.

James E. Settle. One of the enterprising and successful farmers of Nottingham Township, Wells County, is James E. Settle, who is a representative of one of the old and substantial families of this section of Indiana. James E. Settle was born in Nottingham Township, September 10, 1881, and is a son of Winfield S. and Elizabeth (Albertson) Settle.

Winfield S. Settle was born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, November 20, 1841. His parents were Josiah and Nancy A. (Graves) Settle, both natives of North Carolina, the former of Scotch-Irish and the latter of German ancestry. When Winfield S. was six years old his parents moved to Butler County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and lived until the death of his father, in 1869, when he came to Wells County, Indiana, his mother, in 1877, having taken up her home in Richmond, Indiana, where she died.

On January 26, 1864, Winfield S. Settle enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company F, Eighty-fourth Indiana Infantry, later being transferred to the Fifty-seventh Regiment, and remained under military orders until the close of the war. He took part in many of the most decisive battles of that great struggle, these including Tunnel Hill, Resaca, Kingston, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Neal Dow Church, Peach Tree Creek and Vining Station. At the last named place he was taken sick and was released on a furlough of ten days, rejoining his regiment in time to participate in the battle of Lookout Mountain. He was finally honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana, and reached his home in Ohio in January, 1866.

When Mr. Settle came to Wells County in 1869, he located on the northeast one-quarter of section 30. He recognized that it was good, arable land, but there had been but little improving and the land was practically uncleared. For a number of years he labored hard here, never sparing himself, and developed one of the most productive farms in Nottingham Township and lived on the same farm until his death, which occurred March 30, 1903. At that time he was known and respected all over the county. He was prominent in the United Brethren Church and had served as a trustee for eight years, as steward two years, as class leader three years and as superintendent of the Sunday school for three years. In politics he was a republican and was in the confidence of the party leaders and was a member of the County Central Committee.

Winfield S. Settle was married April 24, 1869, to Elizabeth Albertson, who was born in Adams County, Indiana, a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann (Brown) Albertson, the former of whom was born in Randolph and the latter in Jay County, Indiana. They became the parents of ten children, as follows: Anna, who is the wife of Edward S. Wolfe, residing at Domestic, Indiana; William H., who is a farmer in Nottingham Township; Olive, who is the wife of George Templin, a farmer in this township; Winfield, who is a university graduate, and is a minister in the United Brethren Church and for the past seven years has been stationed at Lynconville, Indiana; Thomas, James E. and Charles, all of whom are farmers in Nottingham Township; Walter B., who lives at Phoenix, Indiana; Hazel, who is the wife of Hugh Gehrett of Nottingham Township; and one who is deceased.

James E. Settle grew up on his father's farm and attended the district schools. His first venture into business was as a worker in the oil fields, where he was employed for seven years. Since that time he has devoted himself to farming and owns a well cultivated tract of forty acres located in Nottingham Township. He is a careful, industrious and judicious farmer and understands how to make his business profitable. After his marriage he lived for a time at Phoenix, then moved on his father's farm and from there came to his own property.

Mr. Settle was united in marriage with Miss May McClain, born August 29, 1880, a daughter of William and Anna McClain, and they have two children, both sons, Clifford and Cleland. Clifford Settle was born October 8, 1903, and has done well in school, completing the common school course with credit and at present being a student in the high school at Petroleum. The younger son, born August 1, 1906, is still in the common school. The family belongs to the United Brethren church and Mr. Settle is a steward. He is a republican in politics.

J. Fred Fruchte for many years has stood before the citizens of Adams County as a successful teacher, lawyer, business man and just now as a very vigorous public official, being prosecuting attorney in his second term.

Mr. Fruchte comes of old German ancestry. His grandparents were born in Germany and left that country about the time of the German revolution in 1848. They brought with them two or three children, and crossed the ocean on an old fashioned sailing vessel, being several weeks in making the voyage. From New York they came on west to Preble Township of Adams County, Indiana, and planted their first home in the midst of the heavy forest. The cultivated clearing was gradually extended around their humble home, and in that environment their children grew up. The grandfather died only a few years after coming to Adams County, when still in the prime of life. His widow survived him many years. They are buried side by side in the old Salem Reformed Church cemetery and both were very active in that church from its very beginning. Their children were: William, Lewis, Henry, John, Sophia, Elizabeth and Mary. All but one daughter are still living, and of those living all but one son have their homes in Adams County.

Lewis Fruchte, father of the prosecuting attorney, was born in Preble Township on Christmas day of 1850. He grew up on the farm and was well disciplined in its duties, in addition to the advantages he obtained by attending the schoolhouse located at the corner of the old Fruchte farm. He was confirmed in the Reformed Church which also occupied a tract of ground on the old Fruchte homestead. He married a neighbor girl, Miss Louisa Sherry, who was born in Preble Township in 1849 and like her husband was confirmed in the old Salem Reformed Church and educated in the same schoolhouse. After their marriage they secured a farm of their own, and by earnest and effective toil developed its possibilities, put up substantial buildings, and for many years in succession grew crops, reared their family and gradually prospered in material goods and in the esteem paid to good and useful citizens. Their farm consisted of 110 acres, and it remained their home until they removed to Decatur in August, 1892, buying a good house at the corner of Fourth and Jackson streets. The mother died at Decatur in 1909. Her children have always paid her a great debt of gratitude because of her devotion to them in their younger years and also for the work and co-operation she gave her husband in making and establishing a home. The father is still living hale and hearty. He is a democrat in politics and for nine years was township trustee. These parents had three children, Mary, Fred and Lucy. Mary married Albert Reppert and they own and occupy a farm of 160 acres in Kirkland Township of Adams County. The daughter Lucy grew up on the old farm and was educated with her brother and sister in the old district school and married Ferd L. Litterer. She died at the home of her father in Decatur June 8, 1913, at the birth of her first child. This child was christened Lewis John Litterer. Mr. Litterer, the father, is still living with the elder Mr. Fruchte at Decatur.

J. Fred Fruchte was born on the old homestead February 24, 1876, and was a pupil in the local district school until thirteen. He made rapid progress in his studies, and only became discontented at school because he was held back and prevented from advancing as rapidly as possible. He therefore left school, went to work, and at the age of nineteen gratified his desire and ambition by attending a normal school at Anderson, Indiana, when that school was first established. He was a student there forty weeks and at the end of thirty weeks was given a year's license as a teacher by Professor J. F. Snow of Adams County. Mr. Fruchte taught his first school in District No. 5 of Preble Township and later was transferred to his old home district No. 6. He taught there four years and for one year was a teacher in the city schools of Decatur. While in his home district he developed a first grade high-

school class at the end of two years and by the vigorous vitality of his instruction and leadership made that one of the best district schools in the county at the time.

In the meantime he had attended a business college at Marion, Ohio, and took up the study of law in the Indianapolis College of Law where he completed his course in 1903 and was admitted to the bar the same year. Mr. Fruchte has been in practice at Decatur since 1904 and has enjoyed a large and successful general business in the law. At the same time he has been a dealer in real estate and insurance, and for some years has been associated with Mr. Daniel Berry in handling horses. This is one of the principal firms of horse dealers in Northeastern Indiana. Several times a single sale has reached over $100,000 and their sales have involved a million dollars worth of business in a single year. Mr. Fruchte has always taken a lively and active part in the democratic party. He has filled the office of prosecuting attorney for the past three years, first taking the office in 1915. He was re-elected in 1916 and his present term expires January 1, 1919. On February 26, 1917, Mr. Fruchte was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Indiana. He was a member of the Decatur School Board in 1913-14, resigning when he entered upon his duties as prosecuting attorney.

Mr. Fruchte is affiliated with Kekionga Lodge No. 165, Knights of Pythias, has filled all the chairs and is past chancellor. He is a member of the Reformed Church and his wife of the Methodist. In October, 1908, at Decatur Mr. Fruchte married Miss Myrtle M. Beachler. Her father, William Beachler, was for four years superintendent of city schools at Decatur.

Oscar L. Vance. A conspicuous figure in the business life of Adams County, Oscar L. Vance, head of the enterprising firm of Vance & Hite, is carrying on a substantial business as a dealer in men's and boys' ready made clothing, and in haberdashery, of which he carries a full line. His large store, 100 feet by 20 feet, located at the corner of Second and Madison streets, is up-to-date in its equipments and furnishings, and in addition to its salesroom and store rooms having a tailoring and a cleaning department; the store, owing to the demands of its large and constantly increasing trade, has recently been remodelled, and two whole floors and part of another floor are now occupied by the firm. A native of Adams County he was born, October 15, 1874, in Blue Creek Township, on the farm of his parents, both of whom died many years ago.

Having obtained his rudimentary education in the public schools, Mr. Vance taught for three years in the district schools of his native township. Subsequently entering the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, Indiana, he was there graduated with the class of 1897. Coming immediately to Decatur, Mr. Vance was for four years principal of the ward schools, and the following year taught English and English-Latin in the Decatur High School. In 1902 he embarked in mercantile pursuits, becoming junior member of the newly-organized firm of Acker, Elzey & Vance, dealers in men's clothing and furnishing goods. A year later, Mr. Acker retired from the firm, which then became Elzey & Vance. Mr. Elzey subsequently disposed of his interest in the business, and two new members being admitted the firm name was changed to Vance, Hite & Macklin, and in 1912 Mr. Macklin withdrew, and the firm has since carried on business under its present name, Vance & Hite. During the fifteen years that he has been in business in Decatur, Mr. Vance has met with genuine success, gradually working his way up from the junior member of the firm with which he is associated to its head.

An active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. Vance, who has been a Bible student for many years, is very prominent in Sunday school work, and for a long while has conducted, after his own methods, a regularly organized Bible class, teaching the spiritual side of the scriptures, rather than the literal. An interesting and inspiring teacher, his efforts have been fruitful, and the class membership is constantly increasing. From his class, which is graded like any school, he recently graduated twenty-nine pupils, a number of which he expects to double at the next graduation, his class being larger than any other Bible class in the Chicago Conference.

Mr. Vance has always been active in public affairs, and a liberal supporter of all beneficial movements. For six years he served as a member of the Decatur Board of Education, being especially interested in school matters. He is prominent in Masonic circles, belonging to the Blue Lodge, the Shrine, and the Fort Wayne Consistory. He also belongs to Kekionga Lodge No. 165, Knights of Pythias, which he has several times represented at the Grand Lodge of the state.

Mr. Vance is the patentee of an automatic lock, known as the Vance Safety Lock, and has 6,000 combinations. This lock, for which there is a growing demand, was put on the market by the Vance Safety Lock Company, of which Mr. Vance is a stockholder and the president, it having a paid up capital of $10,000.

Mr. Vance married, in Decatur, Anna Sellemeyer, whose parents, Frederick and Elizabeth (Miller) Sellemeyer, are well known and highly respected throughout the city. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Vance is a daughter, Lee Anna, who is still at school.

Edward L. Carroll. The courageous spirit that keeps an individual perseveringly striving even after repeated disappointments and misfortune is exemplified strikingly in the character of Edward L. Carroll, a successful business man of Decatur, and an extensive dealer in coal, feed and seeds, and a jobber in supplies of various kinds. Mr. Carroll has been, in his career, engaged in enterprises of important and varied nature and has made and lost several fortunes, on each occasion when he has received serious set-backs having fought back with undiminished spirit and won his way to the front again. Today he is accounted one of the leaders of the Decatur business contingent and that he is so is a decided tribute to his unfaltering perseverance and unconquerable courage.

Mr. Carroll was born in Logan County, Ohio, February 8, 1858. His father, Thomas Carroll, was born in Ireland, about 1830, of an old Irish family of Catholic stock, and about the year 1849 came to the United States and located in Ohio. There he was married to Lucinda Bickham, who was born in Pennsylvania, and who, like her mother, had been a spinner and weaver. The Bickham family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio on horseback, and mother and daughter soon found their services in the new community in much demand, they weaving the greater part of the flax and wool in their neighborhood. Thomas Carroll was a man highly educated, a real Irish gentleman, and one of the best mathematicians and astronomers in Ohio. After his marriage he settled on a farm and later bought a general store at Huntsville, conducting both for four years, when he sold his farm and traded his stock of merchandise for another farm in the vicinity of Huntsville. He spent two years on this property and then went into the elevator business at Huntsville with Messrs. Herrin and Edmiston, and one year later bought their interests in this enterprise, which he conducted until 1897, in which year he turned it over to his

son, Edward L. Mr. Carroll died at Huntsville at the age of eighty-two years and Mrs. Carroll when seventy-six years of age. They were members of the Catholic Church, to which faith Mrs. Carroll had become a convert, and were greatly esteemed and respected as people of the highest character and principles. Of their children, Edward L. is the eldest; Mary J. is married and resides in Ohio; Charles P. is also married and lives in that state; and Thomas F. and Robert are married and live in Michigan.

Edward L. Carroll was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and in youth and young manhood was engaged in various enterprises, principally with his father. He conducted the business established by his father at Huntsville until 1901, in which year he came to Decatur and purchased the business of J. D. Hale, which had been established about thirty years ago by Mr. Hale, consisting of five grain elevators, of which four are in Adams County and one in Wells County. In 1907, with certain Toledo parties, Mr. Carroll established the United Grain Company, with 109 county and city grain elevators in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, including an elevator at Chicago with a capacity of 250,000 bushels; one at South Bend, Indiana, of a like capacity; and elevators at Buffalo, New York, and Toledo, Ohio, each with a capacity of 500,000 bushels. An office was operated at each of these points, with Mr. Carroll in charge of the Buffalo office. After seven years he disposed of his interests. In 1909 he incorporated the Ward Wire Fence Company and erected a large plant in the north end of Decatur, spending $16,000 in development, but in the following three years lost in the neighborhood of $5,000 and thereupon sold out. In December, 1909, he had temporarily retired from business, and in the year that followed more misfortune came to him, for he lost in death his father, his mother-in-law, his brother and his brother-in-law. When he was again ready to engage in business, Mr. Carroll started his present large enterprise, which has been an unqualified success, and in which, no doubt, he will be able to recoup his losses. He is engaged in jobbing in stucco, stucco materials, flour, feed, bran, chicken feed and other supplies, and also has a large trade in retail coal, salt, lime, etc., and employs five people in his large plant, situated at the corner of Second and Jefferson streets, Decatur.

Mr. Carroll was married in Logan County, Ohio, to Anna C. Shaughnessy, who was born in that county, of Irish parents, John and Margaret (Brellehan) Shaughnessy, who were married in Ireland, emigrated to Canada, and then came to Logan County, Ohio, where they died, the mother at the age of sixty-seven years and the father when seventy-one years of age. They were Catholics. Of their five daughters and one son, four of the daughters are living, and two of them are married. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll have two children: Blanche M. and John Clayson. Blanche M. married Daniel R. Vail, of Decatur, who is connected with his father in the operation of strawboard factories at Delphi and Marion, Indiana, and also in the ownership of large tracts of timberland in Southwest Missouri, thirty miles of railroad and four heading and stave factories. Mr. and Mrs. Vail have one daughter: Mary L., eight years of age. John Clayson Carroll, who is associated with his father in business, married Leiah Miller, of Greenville, Ohio, and they have a son John. All the members of these families are Catholics, Mrs. Leiah Carroll being a convert to that faith, and they attend St. Mary's Church. Mr. Carroll and his sons are fourth-degree members of the Knights of Columbus, Edward L. Carroll having been the founder of the council at Decatur. Mr. Carroll has been active in the ranks of the democratic party, as an advisor, although he has not taken such a prominent part since settling permanently at Decatur. He has not sought office. In

civic affairs he has always been a supporter of beneficial and worth-while movements.

Isaac Barlett. One of the great industries to which the world looks for food products, none are more important than those connected with the raising of fine stock, and the breeding of hogs has been developed into a business that commands the scientific attention of many men of sound practical sense and wise forethought. Hog products have become almost necessities of life, and while they may well be classed with the luxuries in times of peace, they are indispensable in the feeding of an army in times of war. Perhaps there is no more experienced and expert breeder of hogs in the whole State of Indiana than Isaac Barlett, who is one of Rock Creek Township's leading farmers and stockmen.

Isaac Barlett has lived in Wells County since he was ten years old and his fellow citizens would like to claim him as a native, but the fact is that he was born in Pennsylvania December 20, 1865. His parents were Ephraim and Catherine (Staver) Barlett, both of whom died in Pennsylvania, in 1873 and 1874 respectively. Isaac was the oldest born of their two sons, Jacob, the youngest, also a resident of Adams County.

Left an orphan before he was ten years old, Isaac Barlett had fewer advantages in his boyhood than might otherwise have been his. He came to Wells County and to the home of his uncle, Joseph Lewellan, where he grew to manhood while giving his uncle assistance on his farm, after which, for six years he worked by the month as a general farm laborer. In the meanwhile through prudence and self denial he had accumulated sufficient capital to purchase his present farm of eighty acres, in Rock Creek Township. At that time it was what is called stump land, the timber having been cut, and it required years of hard work before Mr. Barlett felt satisfied with the profits of his farming operations. In the meantime he embarked in the stock breeding business which he has developed into a large industry and his operations have resulted in so much success that his reputation along this line is thoroughly established. He makes a specialty of the Chester White variety and for some years has exhibited fine specimens at different county fairs and stock shows, and at the recent stock exposition held at Bluffton, won eight prizes.

Mr. Barlett was married first on June 20, 1889, to Miss Catherine Bickel, who was a daughter of G. S. Bickel. She had one daughter, Lena K., who died in infancy. His second marriage was to Miss Mary M. Ernest, who is a daughter of John O. Ernest, and they have two children, Pearl and Ethel. Mr. Barlett and family are active members of the German Reformed Church. They are kind, hospitable people and have a wide acquaintance and many friends in this neighborhood. Mr. Barlett casts his vote with the democratic party. He has built up a very important business here from small beginnings and he deserves much credit for raising the stock standard in Rock Creek Township.

John A. Morrison, M. D. While most of his professional work was done at Montpelier in Blackford County, Doctor Morrison was widely known in Wells County by residence and active citizenship, and made his home here on a farm during his declining years. His death, which occurred July 11, 1911, was widely and sincerely mourned by a large host of friends and acquaintances all over this section of Indiana.

He represented some of the old and prominent family stock of Northeastern Indiana. His father Leander Morrison was a native of Bourbon County, Kentucky, son of Andrew Morrison, who came from his native Scotland to America in young manhood. Andrew Morrison moved from Pennsylvania to Kentucky. Leander Morrison was educated in the pub-

MR. AND MRS. ISAAC BARLETT AND FAMILY

lic schools and when a young man went with his father to Preble County, Ohio, where he followed farming until 1834. In that year he removed to Huntington County, Indiana, entering a tract of Government land in both Huntington and in Wells counties. The same year, 1834, he married Miss Matilda Jones, daughter of Samuel Jones, also a native of Scotland. Samuel Jones had settled in Huntington County, Indiana, in 1833, and acquired the land on which he later laid out the village of Warren. Leander Morrison spent many useful years as a farmer in Huntington County and in the early days served as land agent and was also a magistrate and county commissioner. In politics he was a whig and subsequently a republican. He died February 14, 1881, survived by his widow. They were the parents of seven children: Calvin, who died while a Union soldier; Nancy; Martha; Sarah; Samuel L.; John A.; and Lewis.

Dr. John A. Morrison was born on his father's farm in Salamonie Township of Huntington County, Indiana, April 26, 1850. His early environment and his chief discipline was that of an Indiana farm of fifty or sixty years ago. His education was the product of the local district schools, the Bluffton city schools and the Roanoke Academy. In 1872 he took up the study of medicine with Drs. Mason and Ransom at Hartford City, attended lectures of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery during 1873-74, and in 1875 was granted his diploma by that institution. The next year he practiced at Mount Zion in Wells County, and then at Liberty Center in Wells County until June, 1884. On giving up his practice that year he went east and spent several months attending courses and clinics in the Long Island Hospital Medical College of New York, and then resumed practice at Montpelier in Blackford County, where he sustained a fine reputation and splendid record as a physician and surgeon for eighteen years. He was an active and prominent member of the Blackford County Medical Society. After having been in practice steadily for about thirty years Doctor Morrison retired and four years before his death located on his farm in Jackson Township of Wells County. He was fond of the country and of agricultural activities, and took a great deal of pride in his fine farm of 226 acres. A large source of profit and revenue came from twenty-six active oil wells on the farm and the farm still is a producer in the oil belt of Wells County. Doctor Morrison was a man who commanded utmost respect and enjoyed the esteem and admiration of a host of friends. Politically he was a republican.

On July 2, 1876, he married Miss Sarah C. Spake, who was born in Liberty Township of Wells County December 14, 1857, daughter of John and Mary (First) Spake. Her father was born in Guernsey County, Ohio. About 1885 Mr. and Mrs. Spake removed to Kansas City, where they spent their last years. They had four children: Sarah C.; Anna G., who has never married; J. P., a resident of Kansas City, married Miss Lina Barickson, and Mary B., wife of H. B. Van Horn, of Kansas City. Mr. and Mrs. Spake also adopted a daughter by the name Esther A. Parker, who married Isaac Neff, of Mount Zion, Indiana, and is now deceased.

Mrs. Sarah C. Morrison was reared in Liberty Township, was educated in the district schools, and as the wife of Doctor Morrison became the mother of three sons. The oldest, Alva R., lives on the Morrison farm in Wells County and married Ethel Dairy. The second son, also living on the Morrison farm, has been an accomplished penman and formerly taught penmanship. He married Nettie Reynolds. The youngest son, Merl Minton, graduated from the Montpelier High School on July 11, 1911, and is also at home with his mother.

William F. Stepler. Occupying a position of prominence not only among the leading citizens of French Township, but among the substantial agriculturists of his community, William F. Stepler is an up-to-date farmer in every respect, his farm being well kept and well managed, and his stock and machinery being of first-class description. A native of Adams County, he was born, March 31, 1876, on the farm where he is now living, a son of John Stepler.

Born and educated in Germany, John Stepler came to the United States at the age of nineteen years, locating first in Ohio. Coming from there to Indiana, he bought land in French Township, and on the farm which he cleared and improved was busily employed during his remaining years. He married Mrs. Elizabeth (Shifferley) Zaugg, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio. She was the widow of Daniel Zaugg, who died in early life, leaving her with three children, Phillip, Lucy and Emma. By her marriage with John Stepler she had six children, as follows: Mary, wife of William Heineking; John, who died in 1900; William F.; Sarah E.; Daniel S., engaged in farming in Monroe Township; and Otto, deceased.

A life-long resident of French Township, William F. Stepler acquired his education in the district schools, and as a young man became actively employed in developing the resources which have made it among the best agricultural regions to be found in this section of Indiana. Mr. Stepler has placed his eighty acres of land under good cultivation, and in addition to carrying on general farming has gained a wide reputation as a successful stock breeder and raiser, having a fine sire at head of his fine herd of short horned cattle, and a valuable bunch of Duroc hogs, his favorite breed. Mr. Stepler has other interests aside from farming, being a stockholder in the Home Store at Monroe, and also in a threshing outfit. Politically Mr. Stepler is a firm supporter of the principles advanced by the democratic party. Religiously he is an active member of the Reformed Church, which he has served as treasurer since 1906.

Abraham Egly. One farm in Hartford Township of Adams County has been the home of the Egly family for over half a century and has responded to the diligence and practiced husbandry of members of the family with so many successive crops as to provide the means of livelihood for practically two generations.

Abraham Egly was born on that old homestead and has lived there nearly all the days of his life. His birth occurred February 7, 1862. His parents were Henry and Catherine (Goldsmith) Egly, and they acquired that tract of 162 acres in the midst of the wilderness on section 13 of Hartford Township and were the means and instrumentality in its original development. Henry Egly was born in Germany and his wife in Alsace and the latter came to the United States with her parents at the age of seven and he was also a boy when he came. Their respective families settled in Butler County, Ohio, where Henry and Catherine grew up and where they married. On coming to Indiana they located in Hartford Township of Adams County and bought the land on which their son Abraham now lives. It was then all in the woods, and their first habitation was a log cabin. Henry Egly lived here, industrious, prosperous and honored until his death in 1890. His widow died February 27, 1905. They were members of the Defenseless Mennonite Church, and Henry Egly was long prominent in that denomination and served as a bishop. He was a very sturdy and upright character. He reaped abundant harvests from his farm of 162 acres, and besides supporting and caring for his own father and

his wife's mother in their age he and his wife reared a family of eight children, six sons and two daughters. Seven of these are still living: Jacob, of Fort Wayne; Henry J. of Phoenix, Arizona; Samuel, of Geneva, Indiana; Joseph of Phoenix, Arizona; Abraham; Christ G. of Fort Wayne; Catherine, wife of David Claudon of Meadow, Illinois.

Joseph Egly was one of the organizers and largely the builder and the preacher of the Missionary Church organized in French Township August 27, 1898.

Abraham Egly grew up on the old homestead, attended the common schools, and the fields in which he learned his first practical lessons of agriculture as a boy are those which he still tends as a source of livelihood in his mature years. He has done much to improve and increase the value of the fine farm which he acquired from his father.

September 23, 1883, Mr. Egly married Leah Stucky. She was born November 20, 1862, in French Township of Adams County, daughter of Christian Stucky, a native of Alsace, Germany, who came to the United States with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Egly are the parents of six children: Simon, who is married and lives in Fort Wayne; Jesse, married and living at Pontiac, Illinois; Amanda, wife of John C. Hershey, a resident of Hartford Township; Harvey, who is married and lives in Berne, Indiana; Christian, a graduate of the common schools, married Ellen B. French, daughter of J. D. French, and lives in Nottingham Township of Wells County; and Valentine A., a graduate of the common schools and now a student in the high school of Hartford Township. The family are active members of the Missionary Church near their home and Mr. Egly is now the church trustee, is also choir leader, and for eight or nine years was superintendent of the Sunday school. Politically he is affiliated with the republican party.

Andrew Wolpert has lived all his productive years and most of those since early childhood in Adams County, and his interests in farming and as a public spirited citizen of Root Township have made him well known and highly esteemed in that community.

He was born in Seneca County, Ohio, January 11, 1874, a son of Joseph and Theresa Wolpert, both of whom were natives of Germany. His mother came to the United States when she was one year old. The parents were married in Seneca County, Ohio, were farmers there, and in 1881 came to Adams County, Indiana, and secured a tract of comparatively wild land in Root Township. Their labors, together with those of their children, have been responsible for making this one of the best farms in the township, and it is now the home and is owned by Andrew Wolpert. It has been in the possession of the Wolpert family since 1882. It is well improved with good buildings and is productive of every crop that grows in this vicinity. Joseph Wolpert did not long survive his coming to Adams County, since he passed away April 5, 1882. His widow survived him many years, keeping her children together and rearing them on the old farm. Her death occurred February 14, 1907. Her children were: Elizabeth, Mary, Rosa, Andrew, Josephine, Anna, Joseph, Sophia and Catherine.

Andrew Wolpert was educated in parochial schools of Decatur and his own children are now attending the same source of education.. After he had grown to manhood he bought the farm from his father's estate and is now carefully cultivating its 120 acres.

October 4, 1905, he married Miss Margaret Kortenber, daughter of Herman and Mary Kortenber, of Decatur. Her mother is still living at Decatur and her father died September 18, 1905. Her father was born in Germany and came to the United States at the age of seventeen,

and her mother is a native of Indiana. Mrs. Wolpert's brothers and sisters are named: Bernard, deceased; Elizabeth, Frances, Clara, Lewis, William, Joseph and Clement. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Wolpert are Lawrence, Herman, Frances, Frederick and Mary E. In politics Mr. Wolpert favors the democratic party, and he and his family are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Fred Bultemeier. From the earliest times to the present the name Bultemeier has been spoken in Adams County with that respect due to a family of more than ordinary intelligence, business ability, energy and resourcefulness, resulting in extensive ownership of fine farms, good homes and people who are ready to respond to the call of public spirit whenever the interest of the community is at stake.

A member of this fine family and one of the best known citizens of Root Township is Mr. Fred Bultemeier, who was born in that township March 13, 1861. He is a son of Conrad and Louisa (Miland) Bultemeier. His parents were both born in Prussia, Germany, and after their marriage came to the United States and settled in Preble Township of Adams County, Indiana. Two years later they moved to Root Township, and there laid the foundation of a substantial property which is still largely in the hands of their children. Conrad Bultemeier before locating in Root Township had worked on the Wabash and Erie Canal. He was a careful and frugal man, saved his money and used it to gain his first hold in Root Township. From time to time he added to his original purchases and at the time of his death, which occurred January 28, 1896, was the owner of 700 acres, constituting a splendid estate, which was divided among his children. His wife died in July, 1884. They were highly respected residents of Root Township, active members of the Lutheran Church, and became the parents of children named Louis, Charles E., Ferdinand, Fred, Wilhelmina, Louise and Lizetta.

While Fred Bultemeier grew up in a substantial home and with good advantages, he was early taught the value of industry and honest toil as a means of making his way in life. He received a public school education in his native township, and in 1886 he inherited from his father the homestead farm which he now occupies. It consists of 198 very fertile and well improved acres, and the fields show careful management, while the buildings are of a most attractive nature. All of it is in cultivation with the exception of about fifteen or eighteen acres of native timber. Mr. Bultemeier himself was born in a log house, but his own children have grown up in one of the most commodious homes of Root Township. Quite recently he bought another farm almost adjoining the old one, known as the Charles Dirkson place, comprising 130 acres. This farm is now occupied by his married daughter, Mrs. Ida Aumann.

On May 27, 1886, Mr. Bultemeier married Annie Schroeder, daughter of Henry and Annie Schroeder, of Allen County, Indiana. A large and happy family of children have grown up on the old farm of Mr. and Mrs. Bultemeier. Their names are Martha, Ida, Annie, Louise, Sophia, Marie, Martin, Henry and Emma. Martha is the wife of Adolph Schamerloh, of Adams County; Ida is the wife of Martin Aumann; Annie married Lawrence Heckman, of Adams County; and Sophia is the wife of Edwin Schamerloh, of Adams County. These children have all had good advantages in the public schools and some of them have attended high school. Mrs. Bultemeier's brother and sister are Henry, who married Annie Drorege, of Adams County, and Sophia, wife of Fred Drorege, of Allen County. Mr. and Mrs. Bultemeier are active members of the Lutheran Church, as were their respective parents, and in politics he is a democrat.

CONRAD GALLMEIER. Three-quarters of a century constitutes a long life. And when it is filled with honorable activity, usefulness to himself, family and community, such a record is one that properly finds a place in any publication of this kind.

That in brief is the record of Mr. Conrad Gallmeier, of Root Township. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, December 19, 1842, a son of Ernst and Elizabeth Gallmeier. He lived in Germany until he was twenty-three years of age. He had the usual thorough education of the German schools, and after coming to America he attended for a brief term or two the public schools of Root Township. He arrived in this country September 18, 1865, only a few months after the close of the Civil war. Coming to Adams County, Indiana, he worked for others for a time but in 1867 was in a position to make his first purchase of land, comprising forty acres. In 1877 this was followed by a similar purchase, another forty acres was added to his domain in 1896, and thus at the present time he is proprietor of a fine farm of 120 acres, nearly all of which represents in its improvements his individual work and good management. Mr. Gallmeier has two brothers, William and Frederick, now living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Both his parents died in Germany in the fall of 1877.

On November 16, 1871, Mr. Gallmeier married Elizabeth Ulman, daughter of William and Mary Ulman, of Adams County. Her parents came from Germany in 1838 and were among the early pioneers of Adams County, where they bought and improved ninety-two acres, securing title direct from the government. Mrs. Gallmeier's father died in June, 1871, and her mother in May, 1894. The other children in the Ulman family were William, Lizetta, Augusta and Amelia.

Mr. and Mrs. Gallmeier have three daughters, all now married. Emma is the wife of Martin Gerke, of Root Township; Louise married Theodore Hobrock, of Root Township; and Mary is the wife of William Hobrock.

Mr. Gallmeier has a splendid farm, with excellent buildings, his fields produce in abundance every crop suited to this soil and climate, and practically all is in cultivation except eight acres of native timber. He and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran Church, and both the families have long held to that religious faith. Mr. Gallmeier has been the recipient of many tokens of esteem and respect on the part of his fellow citizens, and for five or six years was township supervisor, and in his church has filled most of the offices, including trustee.

S. D. HENRY. As chief engineer for the Indiana Pipe Line Company, S. D. Henry, of Preble, Adams County, holds a position of responsibility, and is ably fulfilling the duties devolving upon him in that capacity. He was born, September 4, 1864, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and came with his parents to Indiana in boyhood.

His father, William Henry, migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio, and after living in that state for a time pushed on westward to Indiana. Settling in Wabash County, he settled on 160 acres of land that was still in its virginal wildness, and by dint of hard labor cleared and improved a farm. He served as a soldier in the Civil war, and is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and takes great interest in its affairs. He is a democrat in politics. He married, in Pennsylvania, Sarah Stifler, a native of that state. She was an active member of the United Brethren Church, with which she united when young. She died in 1897, leaving nine children, S. D., David, Frank, Ezra, Loren, Burt, Minnie, Jennie, and Voria.

S. D. Henry first attended school in Ohio, later completing his early studies in the public schools of Indiana. In 1888, he entered the employ of the Indiana Pipe Line Company as a day laborer, and subsequently worked his way upward, becoming first a fireman, and later an engineer. Proving himself eminently intelligent and competent wherever placed, Mr. Henry was made chief engineer of the power plant, and is filling the position to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Henry married, February 5, 1885, Alice E. Crill, a daughter of James and Sarah Crill. Five children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry, namely: Bruce married Maud Lemming of Crown Point and is in the grocery business and postmaster at Laketon; Bessie, wife of Chauncey Gushard, of Wabash County, Indiana; Arlie, a soldier in the United States army, now located at Camp Stanley, Texas, married Rose Fassan; Cleo, wife of Harry Ulch, chemist, formerly of Laketon, now located on a farm in Michigan; and Juanita, wife of Prof. Glenn Marshall, residing at Fort Madison, Iowa.

Politically Mr. Henry invariably supports the principles of the democratic party. Fraternally he belongs to Demming Lodge No. 88, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, North Manchester, Indiana; to Laketon Camp, Knights of the Maccabees, and to Decatur Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Henry also belongs to Decatur Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; and is a member of the Ladies of the Maccabees.

Jonas Neuenschwander. For many years prominently associated with the administration of the public affairs of Adams County, Jonas Neuenschwander, ex-county treasurer, and ex-township trustee, performed the duties devolving upon him in those positions with exceeding fidelity and efficiency, and now as one of the leading agriculturists of this section of the state is meeting with signal success, his home farm being one of the most attractive and desirable in French Township. A native of French Township, he was born, January 15, 1860, son of Christian and Barbara (Garber) Neuenschwander, natives of Berne, Switzerland.

Brought up on the home farm in French Township, Adams County, Jonas Neuenschwander assisted in the care of the farm as a boy, and in the district schools acquired a good education, obtaining an excellent knowledge of both English and German. He subsequently served an apprenticeship of two years at the carpenter's trade, and was afterward variously employed, for awhile having an outfit, and doing much of the neighborhood threshing. Possessing excellent business qualifications, he was chosen by his fellow citizens as trustee of French Township, and served most acceptably for seven years and three months. In November, 1896, he was elected county treasurer of Adams County, and served four years in that capacity until January, 1902, administering the affairs of his office with marked ability. Since assuming possession of his farm of 120 acres in French Township, Mr. Neuenschwander has placed the larger part of it under a high state of culture, and added improvements of an excellent character, his fine estate, with its substantial buildings, giving ample evidence to the passer-by of his skill and ability as a practical agriculturist and rural householder.

Mr. Neuenschwander married, November 19, 1888, Maggie Bischoff, and they have five children living, namely: Grover W., Fannie O., Homer E., Martin J., and Orilla M. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Neuenschwander are members of the St. John's Reformed Church at Vera Cruz, Indiana. Politically Mr. Neuenschwander is one of the prominent and influential democrats of the county, and is interested in

everything pertaining to its welfare. He is now serving as treasurer of the French Township Insurance Company.

NATHAN EHRMANN. One of the foremost agriculturists of Kirkland Township, Nathan Ehrmann is numbered among the successful farmers of Adams County who thoroughly understand the vocation which they are following, and are carrying it on with profit and pleasure. A native of Switzerland, where his parents, Philip and Elizabeth (Schaad) Ehrmann, spent their entire lives, he was born March 17, 1841.

Having as a youth determined to seek his fortune in the New World, Nathan Ehrmann arrived in the United States April 24, 1856. Making his way directly to Indiana, he lived on a rented farm in Adams County for a year, and afterwards worked by the month in different capacities, both on the stage and the canal. In August, 1870, Mr. Ehrmann purchased eighty acres of land in Kirkland Township, and met with such good success in his operations that he has been enabled to buy at different times other tracts of nearby land, and is now the owner of a choice farm of 300 acres. A systematic, practical and progressive agriculturist, Mr. Ehrmann is carrying on general farming with excellent results, year by year adding to his wealth, and materially aiding in the advancement of the community's prosperity.

The maiden name of the wife of Mr. Ehrmann was Elizabeth Fuhrman. She was born in Adams County, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Fuhrman, who emigrated from Germany to America in 1849, settling in Adams County, where Mrs. Ehrmann was reared and educated, as were her brothers and sisters, namely: John; Henry; Margaret, Christopher, deceased; Katherina; Sophia; and Minnie. Mr. and Mrs. Ehrmann are the parents of seven children, as follows: Charles, who married Lisetta Boknecht; Anthony married Esther Wilma; Ferdinand married Amelia Hempel, of Fort Wayne, and they have four children, Frieda, Mary, Clara, and Walter; William married Sena Leimanstahle, and they have three children, Edna, Floyd, and Robert; George, at home; Katherine, wife of William Hempel, has one child, Elizabeth; and Annie, at home. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Ehrmann are members of the German Lutheran Church, to which their parents also belonged. Politically he invariably supports the principles of the republican party by voice and by vote.

August 17, 1861, Mr. Ehrmann enlisted as a private in the First Michigan Cavalry, serving two years and eleven months. He was in many battles among which were Winchester, Fredericksburg, Antietam, second Bull Run, and Gettysburg, the latter being his last battle.

ALBERT HUSER, of Preble, is actively associated with the mercantile interests of Adams County, and as proprietor of the Preble Elevator is an extensive buyer and seller of grain. A native of Indiana, he was born, January 16, 1859, in Adams County, a son of the late George Huser.

Born and bred in Elsass, Germany, George Huser immigrated, in 1846, to the United States, locating first in Pennsylvania. In 1852, following the march of civilization westward, he came to Indiana, and having settled in Preble Township, Adams County, he there followed his trade of shoemaker for many years. He was held in high respect as a man of honest worth, and his death, December 31, 1891, was considered a loss to the community in which he had so long lived. He married, in 1848, in Warren County, Pennsylvania, and his widow survived him many years, passing away in March, 1913. They were the parents of eight children, George, Louis, Mary, Albert, Anna, Louise, Matilda, and

Clara. They were faithful members of the German Lutheran Church, and reared their family in the same faith. The father was a democrat in politics.

Completing his early studies in the public school, Albert Huser worked on the home farm until attaining his majority. He then became interested in the lumber business, having a saw mill in Preble Township, and also operating a threshing machine in that neighborhood. Moving to the Village of Preble in 1885, Mr. Huser purchased a saw mill, and managed both plants successfully until the Preble saw mill burned. Going then to Fort Wayne, Indiana, he was there engaged in the lumber business from 1894 until 1900, when he sold out. The ensuing three years, he was associated with the Adams County Lumber Company, and later ran a stationary engine, being in the employ, at Fort Wayne, of the Indiana Road Machinery Company. On May 1, 1908, Mr. Huser returned to Preble, and purchased the grain elevator, which he has since conducted on strictly business methods, it being known far and wide as the Preble Elevator Company.

Mr. Huser married, October 31, 1882, Louise Buuck. She was born in Adams County, a daughter of Detrich and Mary Buuck, who reared a large family, namely: Sophia; Louise; Fred; Mary, deceased; Anna; August; Henry, deceased; Otto Adolph; Charles; and Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Huser have three children, Paulina, Clara, and Martin. Paulina is a professional nurse, and is now with the Red Cross, in San Antonio, Texas. Clara is single. Martin, also single, is a wholesale tobacco dealer in Lima, Ohio. In his politics Mr. Huser votes for the man, not the party. Religiously, following in the footsteps of his ancestors, he is a member of the German Lutheran Church, to which his wife and children also belong.

James C. Harkless. The farm home in Root Township where James C. Harkless resides is appreciated and valued the more by him because of the fact that on that land he was born, and as a boy he witnessed and helped in converting it from a portion of the original and primeval wilderness into land that would respond to the efforts of the plow.

On this farm he was born February 4, 1879, a son of Benjamin P. and Rebecca J. (Mumma) Harkless. His father was a native of Indiana and his mother of Pennsylvania. The father died after a long and honorable career in Adams County on August 19, 1910. The mother is still living, with home in Decatur.

James C. Harkless spent the years from 1890 until he was well past his majority in assisting his father to clear off the land. He swung the axe and cut down the trees, rolled the logs together in piles, burned the brush, and made himself a helpful factor in every one of the operations by which the land was brought into its present high degree of cultivation. Many days he hauled logs to Decatur, where they were delivered to a local sawmill. He also did that back-breaking work which has a special distinction as one of the early vocations of Abraham Lincoln —splitting rails. He split rails by the thousands and helped make many of the old-fashioned rail fences which are now rapidly going out as a feature of fence improvement around Adams County farms.

Some years ago Mr. Harkless bought the sixty acres from his father's estate and he also owns forty acres in Union Township of Adams County. Both farms are cleared and well improved. A part of the original log house where his father lived in early times still remains among the buildings of the home farm. Mr. Harkless has two sisters, Nettie, wife of Ross Harden, Union Township, and Mary, wife of Ed Ahr, of Root Township.

Mr. Harkless as a boy also attended the district schools of Root Township, but the work of the farm was at least equally important to the instruction he received from books. Mrs. Harkless' brothers and sisters are: Annie, wife of Louis Woodward, of Root Township; Simon, who married Katie Beltz, of Union Township; Edward, Frances and Edith, all unmarried.

May 12, 1907, Mr. James C. Harkless married Alvina Bucher, daughter of John and Minnie Bucher. Mr. and Mrs. Harkless have four children: J. Frank, born in 1907; Fay, born in 1910; Bennie, born in 1911; and Jimmie, born in 1917. Mr. Harkless is an independent voter and is a member of the United Brethren Church.

BENJ. F. BUTLER is a native son of Root Township, has lived in Adams County practically all his life, has prospered through his efforts as a farmer and land owner, and is still capable of doing a full day's work and has no intention just now of going on the retired list.

Mr. Butler was born in Root Township March 27, 1862, son of Jesse and Catherine (Earhart) Butler. His father was born in Wayne County, Indiana, and his mother in Pennsylvania. At the time of their marriage they settled on a farm in Wayne County, Indiana, and later went to what was comparatively a frontier district, buying Government land in Page County, Iowa. They lived there as pioneers and farmers five years and then traded their farm, household goods, farm implements and stock for a home in Adams County, Indiana. They secured 200 acres of land, known as the old Reynolds farm. Only part of the acreage had been cleared and put under cultivation, and the rest of that heavy work was accomplished by Jesse Butler and still later by his son Benj. Jesse Butler was a man of decided popularity and prominence in Adams County for a long period of years. He always considered himself a farmer, though in later years he dealt extensively in livestock. He and his wife were active Methodists and he held nearly all the church offices. The children were Mary, Edna, Albert, Benj. F., William, John, Samuel, Harry, Melvin J. All are living except John and those living reside in Adams County except Albert, whose home is in Fort Wayne.

Benj. F. Butler had the average education of an Adams County farm boy, developed his strength by contact with the plow and other implements of farm industry, and has been in the ranks of productive farmers in this county now for over thirty-five years. On his present farm he located in October, 1902. He sold his portion of the old homestead comprising ninety-five acres. His present farm contains some of the best soil in the county, and is improved with an excellent group of buildings. Mr. Butler is a republican in casting his vote, is a member and has been an active official of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is affiliated with Decatur Tent No. 95 of the Order of the Maccabees.

On May 7, 1881, he married Miss Della Williams, daughter of Jesse and Alice (Ruckman) Williams. Her father was a pioneer of Adams County, locating in Root Township in 1847. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, March 3, 1832, and was only fifteen years of age when his parents moved to Adams County, Indiana. His father died in Wisconsin in 1872. On March 29, 1857, Jesse Williams married Alice Ruckman, who was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, June 16, 1838, daughter of Watson and Hannah (Rowler) Ruckman. After their marriage Jesse Williams and wife began housekeeping at Monmouth, and had a very limited equipment of goods and they earned all their subsequent prosperity by hard work and thrifty living. Both were active members of the Methodist Church and Mr. Williams was a republican.

They had six children: Watson E., who died in 1871 at the age of fourteen; William W., born February 1, 1862; Della B., born August 14, 1865; Loretta A., born May 18, 1868; Mary E., who married Victor V. Reed and died in 1880 at the age of twenty years, eleven months, nineteen days; Jessie Dallas, born July 20, 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler have every reason to be proud and satisfied with the fine family of boys and girls who have grown up in their home. These children are: Earl, who married May Spuehler and lives at Decatur; Harvey, who married Amelia Winters of Washington Township; Dessie, who became the wife of William Evans of Root Township; Vena, the only one deceased; Herbert, who married Frances Russell of Root Township; Kenneth, Brice and Nile, all unmarried. Mr. and Mrs. Butler also have half a dozen grandchildren. Their son Earl has a daughter, Martha E.; Dessie Evans has two children, Richard and Juanita; Harvey has two, Harold and Hubert; and Herbert is the father of one son, Russell.

William C. Gallmeier. Since the woods were first cleared away and the swamps drained in Adams County a number of people responding to the name Gallmeier have borne a creditable share of these material burdens and also taken part in the enlightened citizenship of the community.

One of the best known of the present generation is Mr. William C. Gallmeier, a practical farmer in Root Township. Mr. Gallmeier was born in Preble Township of this county May 20, 1868, a son of Conrad and Wilhelmina Gallmeier. His parents came from Germany in 1845 and were among the real pioneers of Preble Township in Adams County. The father bought eighty acres from the Government, cleared and improved it, and as a result of his remarkable industry and ability to work long and hard, combined with good management, he became one of the successful men of the county. In 1871 he bought another tract of ninety acres in Root Township, and during his lifetime he partly cleared and improved that. This is the land which now constitutes the farm of William C. Gallmeier.

William C. Gallmeier was one of six children, the others being Louise, Frederick, Charles, August and Sophia. Mr. William C. Gallmeier grew up in Adams County, was educated in the common schools and on November 24, 1898, married Miss Lisetta Berning, daughter of Henry and Sophia Berning. Four children have been born to their marriage, Flora, Linda, Alvira and Paul, all of whom are students in the public school. Mrs. Gallmeier's parents also came from Germany and made their early home in Allen County, Indiana.

William C. Gallmeier located on his share of the old homestead at the time of his marriage, and about the same time he also bought sixty-five acres from August Schrader, thus giving him a very complete and rather extensive farm of 156 acres. Much of this has been in cultivation for many successive seasons, but about forty acres are kept in a fine grove of native timber. Here he does general farming and stock raising, and has buildings and other improvements well suited for successful handling of his business.

Mr. Gallmeier is on the advisory board of his township, is a democrat in politics and is an active member of the Lutheran Church. His wife and her people have also been Lutherans for generations back.

Frederick A. Kohler. Born in French Township, October 8, 1865, on the farm he now owns and occupies, Frederick A. Kohler comes of substantial pioneer stock, and having selected for his life work the independent occupation to which he was reared has been a prominent factor

in developing the natural resources of this part of Adams County, rendering it one of the best and most prosperous agricultural regions of Northern Indiana, its rich soil, and its grazing lands, well adapting it to either general farming or stock raising.

His father, the late Abraham Kohler, was born, May 6, 1823, in Canton Berne, Switzerland, where he lived and labored for many years. Immigrating to the United States in 1859, he made his way directly to Wayne County, Ohio, where he soon found remunerative employment. Subsequently, looking for a good place to invest his earnings, he came to Adams County, Indiana, and having purchased land in French Township began the improvement of a farm. Successful in his undertakings, he was here a resident until his death, March 6, 1888. His wife, whose maiden name was Anna Rudy, was born, March 2, 1826, in Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and as a girl came with her parents to Wayne County, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage. She survived her husband a few years, dying at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Steffen. Four children blessed their union, as follows: Alfred, engaged in farming in French Township; Frederick A., of this brief sketch; Magdalena, wife of Toba Steffen; and Anna, who married Fred Bear, died in early womanhood.

Brought up in French Township, Frederick A. Kohler was educated in the country schools, and has spent his entire life on his home farm, in section 15. It contains eighty acres of good land, well improved, liberally supplied with the best machinery for carrying on his work; and, with its substantial buildings, is among the best estates in the community, reflecting credit on his wise management, good judgment, and ability.

Mr. Kohler married, in 1897, Mary Mosure. She was born in Switzerland, March 24, 1870, and came with her parents to Wells County, Indiana, in 1879, locating in Harrison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Kohler have no children. Mrs. Kohler is a member of the German Reformed Church at Vera Cruz. Politically Mr. Kohler is a firm advocate of the principles of the republican party, and has served acceptably as supervisor. Fraternally he is a member of Linn Grove Lodge No. 683, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Kohler are genial and agreeable people, and enjoy to the utmost the esteem and confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Fred Dubach is one of the live and enterprising farmers of Hartford Township, Adams County. He is proprietor of a productive farm, practically all of which represents his individual labors and strivings, is looked upon as one of the substantial men of his community, and both in his private affairs and in his relations to his fellow citizens has lived a life admirable in every respect. The Dubach farm lies in section 15 of Hartford Township, a half mile west and a mile and a quarter south of Linn Grove.

Like a large number of the substantial citizens of this section of Indiana Mr. Dubach is a native of Switzerland, where he was born October 25, 1868. His parents, John and Rosina (Galle) Dubach spent their years in their native land until 1882, when with their children they came to the United States and located near Domestic in Nottingham Township of Wells County, Indiana. His father was one of the honored and respected citizens of that locality until his death in 1908, and the widowed mother still occupies the old farm. There were twelve children in the family, eleven of whom are still living: Rosetta, living in Wells County; John, of Wells County; Fred; Eliza, wife of Benjamin Speheger, of Harrison Township, Wells County; Charles, of Nottingham Township; Rosa, wife of John Speheger, of Wells County; Lena, widow of

Amos Stucky, of French Township, Adams County; Emma, wife of John Hirely, of Craigsville, Indiana; Eli, who is married and occupies the home farm; David, unmarried and still at home; and Daniel, who was killed in the Kingsland wreck of September 21, 1910.

Fred Dubach was fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents from the old country to Wells County, Indiana. Much of his education was acquired in his native land and in his native tongue. In Wells County he went to work for his father, and spent many a day in the woods and the fields clearing and cultivating. That was the routine of his life until he was twenty-two and after that for a couple of years worked out by the month.

Mr. Dubach married Aldine Gerber, who was born in French Township of Adams County March 2, 1870, daughter of Christ Gerber, one of the prominent Swiss colonists of that county. After his marriage Mr. Dubach settled on a farm in French Township, was in that locality ten years, and then removed to his present place in Hartford Township. The Dubach farm comprises 100 acres, and everything about it indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He has raised bountiful crops, and keeps some good grades of livestock of all kinds.

Mr. and Mrs. Dubach have four children: Calvin, Edna, Roy and Elmer, all still at home. The family are members of the German Reformed Church at Vera Cruz, Indiana. Mr. Dubach is a democrat, and besides his farm is a stockholder in the Linn Grove Farmers Bank.

David Runyon. Bringing to his chosen calling not only habits of industry and thrift, but pronounced skill and excellent business ability, David Runyon, of French Township, stands in the front rank among the substantial farmers of Adams County, his farm comparing favorably in its appointments with any in the locality, showing conclusively that he understands his work, and uses good judgment in the management of his property. Coming from pioneer ancestry, he was born, May 2, 1841, in Champaign County, Ohio.

John Runyon, his father, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, and there grew to manhood. After his marriage with Mary Price, one of his school companions, he migrated to Champaign County, Ohio, making an overland journey with teams, taking with him his wife, and all of their household goods. Coming from there to Indiana in October, 1841, he entered eighty acres of land in Adams County, near Linn Grove. Making an opening in the forest, he erected a log cabin, and immediately began the arduous task of redeeming a farm from the wilderness. Industrious and energetic, he succeeded well in his efforts, and on the farm which he improved, both he and his wife spent their remaining days. He was a democrat in politics, and active in religious circles, having been a local preacher in the Baptist Church. Of the nine children born to him and his wife, two are living, as follows: John W., of Linn Grove; and David, with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned.

But six months old when brought by his parents to Adams County David Runyon acquired his early education in Hartford Township, attending a subscription school a part of the time. As soon as old enough to wield an ax, he began to assist his father in cutting off the timber from the homestead, and while yet young gained a practical knowledge of agriculture as carried on in those days. Leaving home at the age of twenty-one years, he made a good living for awhile by leasing land, and clearing it. Having accumulated quite a sum of money, Mr. Runyon bought land in French Township, and as a general farmer has been very successful, his farm of 200 acres, with its broad and cultivated fields, covered in the harvest season with waving grain, replacing the

original immense tract of woodland. Since his boyhood days, Mr. Runyon has been an expert in the use of rifle and gun, having killed his first buck when but thirteen years old. He has hunted not only in all parts of Indiana, but in the Northwest and the South, having as his companions in the sport many hunters of note, including among others Levi Mock.

On October 27, 1861, Mr. Runyon married Ada French, who was born in New York, and came to French Township with her father, George French. She died in 1904. Eight children blessed their union, namely: Talford, of Hailford Township; Onan, born August 30, 1865, died June 8, 1876; Emma D., born January 4, 1868, living at home, is an accomplished musician, and an experienced nurse; Elmer, born September 19, 1870, a farmer in French Township, married Bertha Peal; Ellen, born October 13, 1875, married Samuel Hall, of Hailford Township; Elroy C., who formerly taught in an academy at Troy, Illinois, and is now teaching in Adams County, Indiana, married Kate Newsbaum; Forest, born August 11, 1880, married Mahala Rohn, and is now engaged in farming in Canada; and Cora M., born July 14, 1886, wife of Clinton Parnell, of Portland, Indiana. A stanch democrat in politics, Mr. Runyon takes an active and intelligent interest in local and national affairs, and has served for ten years as assessor of French Township.

William Adler settled on his present farm there in the fall of 1882 and since then has bought two other small farms, one of twenty and the other of thirty acres. The twenty-acre tract is situated in section 25 and the thirty acres in section 36. He has done well not only in cultivating and improving this farm property, but is father of a family that does him credit and altogether the Adlers are people much above the average in education, general intelligence and in their usefulness to themselves and their community.

Mr. Adler was born in Baden, Germany, October 13, 1853, son of Frederick J. and Mary B. (Ebner) Adler. His mother died in 1864 when he was eleven years of age, and his father passed away in 1887. Both died in Germany, where they spent all their lives. They have three children living: William, John and Mary, the latter Mrs. Bauman, of Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. William Adler married Christina Valentine, daughter of Jacob Valentine, of Germany. The children born to their marriage are briefly noted as follows: Louisa, born September 14, 1882; Lena, born June 16, 1884; Frederick, born November 5, 1886, has two children, Glenn and Lester; Carl, born November 10, 1888; Amelia, born January 20, 1891; Louis, born March 1, 1893; William, born May 5, 1895; and David E., born January 24, 1898, formerly a student in the Indiana State University at Bloomington, now in Texas drilling for officer in Eighth Regiment, National army. Mr. and Mrs. Adler were married October 5, 1881.

Mrs. Adler was born in Koendringen, Baden, Germany, June 13, 1860, daughter of Jacob and Marie (Engler) Valentine. She came to the United States with her mother and three other children, Katie, Marie and Frederick. Her father died in Germany, and her mother passed away at Fremont, Ohio, in February, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Adler's daughter Louise married N. S. Beavers, and they have two children, Lucille and Harry D. The son Louis married Stella Clopfenstine. Their son William volunteered in the United States Army, was ordered to Douglas, Arizona, on the Mexican border, May 1, 1917, as a member of Battery A, Tenth Field Artillery, and has since been promoted to the rank of sergeant. The daughter Lena has two children, William and Robert. The son Carl has one child, Thomas Wil-

liam. The son Louis has one child, Louis, Jr. Louis is now cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Preble. The son William, now in the army, taught school for three terms in Preble and for one term in Arizona.

August Conrad. One of the foremost farmers and stock raisers of Adams County, August Conrad, of Preble Township, holds high rank among the energetic agriculturists who thoroughly understand the vocation which they follow, and are pursuing it with both profit and pleasure. A son of William Conrad, he is a native born citizen, the date of his entrance into this world having been May 13, 1869.

William Conrad was born, December 12, 1836, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his parents settled on coming, by canal boat, to Indiana from Toledo, Ohio. He was educated in the parochial and public schools, and as a young man entered into agricultural pursuits, also having been for a time engaged in mercantile business in Preble Township, where his farm was located. Enterprising and energetic, he purchased a threshing machine, and during the harvest season was kept busily employed among his neighboring farmers. He was a natural lover of horses, and kept several full-blooded stud horses for exhibition and breeding purposes, as a stock raiser being quite successful. The first farm which he owned was in section 9, Preble Township, and contained forty acres, all of which he cleared and improved. Later, he bought the eighty-acre farm on which his son August now resides, and about the same time he purchased fifty acres lying one mile north, and a half mile west, of that one, it being known as the Yeager farm, thus acquiring title in all to 170 acres of good land. He was active in public affairs, serving as township assessor several years, and also holding various offices in the German Lutheran Church, with which he and his family were identified.

William Conrad married Minnie Bley, who was born in Germany, and as a girl of twelve years came, in 1853, with her parents to Indiana, the marriage having been solemnized March 15, 1861. Six children were born of their union, as follows: Fred; Carl, deceased; William D.; Louis; August; and Ernst.

August Conrad was educated in the public and parochial schools of his native township. He obtained a practical knowledge of the science and art of agriculture when young, and as he reached maturer years decided on farming as his life occupation. With this purpose in view, Mr. Conrad purchased from his father's estate the farm of eighty acres on which he is now successfully employed in farming and stock raising. It is well improved, and all of it is cleared with the exception of a few acres of scrub brush, and it has a good set of buildings. He has inherited his father's love for horses, and at the present time has three of the finest Belgian thoroughbred stallions to be found in this section of the country, the oldest of which is Fornau Dalvoux, twelve years of age; the others being Rev-d'Or-de Houx, nine years old, and Ardent-D-Filmagne, seven years old. His estate, known as the Belgian Stock Farm, is one of the best in its improvements and equipments in Adams County, giving to the passerby strong evidence of the thrift and wise management of its owner.

Mr. Conrad married, October 18, 1891, Sophia Decker, daughter of Fred and Maria Decker, who came from Germany to Indiana, locating in Adams County, where Mrs. Conrad, and her brothers and sisters, William, Louise, Annie and Mary, were born and brought up. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad have five children: Marie, Otto, Lawrence, Emma and Annie. Marie married Louis Fuhrmann, of Preble Township, and they have three children: Velma, Elmer and Luella. Otto married Freeda Eickhoff.

JOHN HILGEMANN. A prosperous and progressive agriculturist of Adams County, John Hilgemann is a well-known and highly esteemed resident of Preble Township, where his fine and well appointed farm gives substantial evidence of the excellent care and skill with which it is managed. A son of William Hilgemann, he was born in Preble Township, December 4, 1887, and was here brought up and educated.

The birth of William Hilgemann occurred in Adams County, Indiana, May 31, 1845. Starting as a farmer on his own account, he first purchased eighty acres of land in Preble Township, and began the improvement of a homestead. Industrious, enterprising and thrifty, he succeeded in his undertakings, and subsequently bought other nearby land, and on the homestead which he cleared and improved he and his wife are living in peace and plenty. Both are faithful members of the Reformed Church. His wife, whose maiden name was Lesitia Lammert, was born in Germany, and as a small child crossed the ocean with her parents, coming to Indiana with them. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hilgemann, as follows: Martin, Lydia, Annie, Martha, Ida, John and Emma.

When ready to settle in life, John Hilgemann received as a gift seventy-seven acres of the parental homestead, and has since managed it with unquestioned success. Having by means of thrift accumulated considerable means, he invested in other lands, buying, January 15, 1911, eighty acres adjoining his own property, and is now the owner of a rich and finely-managed farm of 157 acres, in the improvement of which he takes pride and pleasure. In addition to carrying on general farming, Mr. Hilgemann is interested to some extent in stock raising, although he does not specialize in that branch of industry.

On June 12, 1912, Mr. Hilgemann was united in marriage with Miss Lena Worthman, a daughter of Lewis and Sophia Worthman, who were the parents of seven other children, namely: Martin; Louis J.; Ernst; Matthew, who is studying for the ministry; Manda; Edward, a clergyman; and Ellen. Mr. and Mrs. Hilgemann have one child, Emma, born in 1914. In politics Mr. Hilgemann is independent, voting for the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions. He and his wife are both members of the Reformed Church.

AUGUST SCHEUMANN. An enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Adams County, August Scheumann, of Preble Township, owns and occupies a valuable farm, on which he has a tasteful and conveniently arranged residence, a good barn, and all the outbuildings and machinery required by a first-class modern farmer. A native of Preble Township, he was born August 29, 1869, of German ancestry, it having been taken up from the Government by his grandparents, Conrad and Christina Scheumann.

Mr. Scheumann's parents, C. C. D. and Mary Scheumann, were born in Indiana, the father in 1846, in Adams County, and the mother in Allen County, in 1849. Soon after his marriage, the father purchased eighty acres of the parental homestead, and by dint of industry cleared and improved a part of the land, and carried on general farming with good results. The mother died December 23, 1896, leaving eight children, as follows: Ernst; Conrad; Chris, deceased; Eliza; Sophia; Clara; Mary; and Bertha. Both she and her husband were active members of the German Lutheran Church, and brought up their children in that faith.

Brought up on the home farm, August Scheumann was educated in the parochial and public schools, and by his father was well trained in agricultural pursuits, thus becoming while young amply fitted for his

future occupation. In 1896 he purchased sixty acres of his father's estate, and has since been actively engaged in his chosen vocation, his land being under excellent cultivation, and yielding abundant harvests.

Mr. Scheumann married, December 13, 1896, Hannah Eickhoff, a native of Adams County. Her parents, Ernst and Wilhelmina Eickhoff, reared eight other children, namely: William, Christ, Ernst, Fred, Louise, Mina, Mary and Sophia. Six children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Scheumann, namely: Herman; Albert, deceased; Annie; Martha; Edna; and Linda. Politically Mr. Scheumann is identified with the democratic party, and religiously he and his family are German Lutherans.

George F. Glendening. About the best means by which a man can establish the highest credit for integrity and good citizenship is to maintain a long residence in one locality where all his neighbors know him under a great variety of circumstances, tests his reliability and still continue to sustain him as a valued and valuable citizen. It is through this test that George F. Glendening has been judged one of the leading farmers and citizens of Adams County. He owns one of the good farms in Hartford Township, located three miles west of Geneva, and the farm is a practical monument to his industry and represents more than a business, and is also one of the good homes. It consists of eighty acres and is in section 26 of Hartford Township.

Mr. Glendening was born in the same township October 30, 1861, a son of James and Lydia (Pontius) Glendening. His father was a native of Darke County, Ohio, and his mother of Pickaway County, that state. Their respective families were among the pioneers of Adams County, locating in Hartford Township, where many worthy men and women of the name have since lived. James Glendening married in this township, and was one of the highly respected farmers here for many years. He also made a record as a soldier which is cherished by his descendants. For over three years he was in the Union army. He and his wife had nine children: George F., J. C., W. A., R. W., L. H., Perry B., Joseph N., Emma J., and Ezra J. All are still living except Emma.

George F. Glendening lived at home with his parents on a farm until he was past twenty-nine years of age. His preparation and training for life was a combination of the facilities furnished by the common schools and the work and discipline of the farm.

On May 3, 1891, Mr. Glendening married Rebecca Sakemiller, who was born in Putnam County, Ohio, August 21, 1865, and was reared and educated in that part of the state. While Mr. Glendening lived for two years at Delphos, Ohio, he has been for much the greater part of his life both before and since his marriage identified with farming in Adams County. A number of years ago he established his home where he now lives, and taking the land in a rough condition he has worked out various plans of improvements and has made one of the exceptionally good farms of his neighborhood. It is now well equipped with buildings, a large barn having been constructed in 1900, and the house rebuilt and refurnished in 1903. Mr. Glendening is a republican in politics and he and family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hartford. He is one of the church official board and assistant superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mr. and Mrs. Glendening had eight children, and six of them died in infancy or early childhood. The only living son is William A., who was born August 2, 1894, graduated from the Geneva High School in 1913, then attended business college at Lima, Ohio, and after one year as bookkeeper in the offices of the New York Central Railway returned

home where he still resides. The daughter Mary L., born October 14, 1907, is now in the fourth grade of the district school.

Fred J. Isch, of French Township, well merits mention in this volume, which gives a brief account of the lives of many of the citizens of Adams and Wells counties. A son of Jacob Isch, he was born in Livingston County, Illinois, June 5, 1875, and was there educated.

Born in Switzerland in 1844, Jacob Isch grew to manhood in his native country, receiving good educational advantages. He there married Mary Shaller, whose birth also occurred in 1844, and after the birth of their first child, a son, named Alfred, he came with his family to America, locating first in Woodford County, Illinois. Subsequently, with the limited amount of money that he possessed, bought land in Livingston County, Illinois, and was there employed in tilling the soil a few years. Selling that property, he came to Adams County, Indiana, and having purchased 575 acres of land on section 12, French Township, was successfully engaged in farming until his death, in 1909. His wife survived him a short time, dying in 1910. Of the seven children born of their marriage, six are living.

As a young man Fred J. Isch turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his father, and assisting in the care of the home farm until twenty-five years of age. Coming then to Adams County, Indiana, Mr. Isch first located on section 11, French Township, but later moved to section 12, in the same township, where he has 200 acres of choice land, which he is managing with characteristic skill, reaping rich annual harvests from his well-tilled farm. Mr. Isch also finds profit in the buying and feeding of stock, a business in which he has been successfully employed for a number of years.

Mr. Isch married, in 1900, in Wells County, Indiana, Elizabeth Kaehr, and into their home five children made their advent, namely: John, Amos, Mary, Esther and Ralph S. The mother of these children died in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Isch are members of the Christian Apostolic Church. Politically Mr. Isch is identified with the republican party. In June, 1912, Mr. Isch married Emma Aeschliman and to this marriage there has been born two children, Edward S. and Alice.

Jesse A. Ray is industriously engaged in his peaceful and profitable occupation in Kirkland Township, Wells County, where he holds an assured position among the substantial business men of his community. A son of Cyrus W. Ray, he was born, January 1, 1870, in Monroe Township, Adams County, Indiana.

Born September 2, 1837, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Cyrus W. Ray grew to manhood on the parental homestead, and there acquired a broad knowledge of the science of agriculture. After farming there for a few years on his own behalf, he migrated with his family to Iowa, where he was engaged as a tiller of the soil for five years. Disappointed in the results of his toil, he came back as far as Indiana, and settled in Adams County, where he carried on general farming successfully until his death, April 22, 1906. He was a man of sterling worth, and one of the more highly respected men of his community. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary J. Hendricks, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, December 8, 1843, and died in Adams County, Indiana, June 10, 1914. They were the parents of six children, as follows: John M., Lydia E., Thomas F., Jesse A., Josiah B., and Hosea O. Both parents were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and reared their children in the same religious faith.

Acquiring his early education in the schools of Monroe Township,

Jesse A. Ray began as a boy to assist his father on the home farm, obtaining a practical knowledge of agriculture that has since been of inestimable value to him in his favorite pursuit. Becoming a farmer from inclination and choice, Mr. Ray has now a half interest in a ninety-five acre farm, pleasantly located three miles southeast of Decatur. This farm is under a good state of culture, and constitutes with its substantial improvements one of the most desirable pieces of property in the neighborhood.

Mr. Ray has been twice married. He married first, April 22, 1892, Lucretia Smith, daughter of Barclay and Amanda Smith. She died in early womanhood, leaving four children, Grover, Loma, Homer P., and Burman C. Mr. Ray married second, March 16, 1908, Edith Beaber, who was born in Huntington Township, Huntington County, Indiana. Here parents, Rev. Thomas and Emma A. Beaber, were natives of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, but spent the larger part of their married life in Indiana, both dying in this state. Beside their daughter, Edith, Rev. Thomas and Mrs. Beaber reared four other children, Ralph V., Elsie L., Grace E., and Milton F. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ray, four children have been born, namely: Charles Doyle, born in 1910; Gerald Albert, born in 1911; Oscar Thomas, born in 1913; and Floyd J., born in 1915. Politically Mr. Ray is a democrat, and religiously he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

P. M. Fulk. Occupying a prominent position among the enterprising and thriving agriculturists of Kirkland Township, P. M. Fulk has spared neither time nor expense in the improvement of his property, which is one of the most valuable and attractive in the county, every thing about the premises indicating the care and supervision of an excellent manager, and a skilful farmer. A son of Jacob Fulk, he was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, March 25, 1848.

A native of Pennsylvania, Jacob Fulk was born in that state February 21, 1815. While yet a young man he went to Ohio, locating in Mahoning County. After his marriage he purchased from a Mr. Clingman forty acres of heavily timbered land, paying $200 for the tract. Clearing a space in the woods, he built the customary log cabin, and began the pioneer task of clearing a farm from its original wildness. He afterwards sold that land, and purchased eighty acres in the same county, and continued his agricultural labors. After he had placed a large part of that under cultivation, he disposed of it at an advantage, and moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, where he resided until his death, forty-six years later, on August 2, 1897. A man of great intelligence, and good business judgment, he was influential in public affairs, and for many years served as a trustee of Lordstown Township. He was an active member of the German Reformed Church, in which he held numerous offices.

The maiden name of the wife of Jacob Fulk was Susan Kale. She was born, about 1819, in Ohio, and died in 1899, in Trumbull County, that state. Eight children were born of their marriage, as follows: Sarah, deceased; William, deceased; Henry; Catherine; P. M., of this sketch; Peter; Charles; and Andrew.

Brought up on the home farm in Ohio, P. M. Fulk obtained a good common school education, and while assisting his father acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture. In November, 1873, he assumed possession of eighty acres of his present farm in Kirkland Township, it having been deeded to him by his father. Clearing a space in the forest, he erected a typical pioneer frame house, 16 by 24 feet, and a wagon shed 24 feet by 30 feet, and a little later built a barn 36 feet by 72 feet,

C. G. WOODWARD

and all of these buildings are still standing, in 1917, and are in good condition. In 1900 Mr. Fulk erected the conveniently arranged dwelling house which he and his family now occupy. A man of indomitable resolution and perseverance, Mr. Fulk has met with signal success in his undertakings, his farm being well improved, and the larger part of its rich and fertile land under a high state of cultivation, his homestead of 200 acres being one of the most desirable in the community.

Mr. Fulk married, March 3, 1889. Emma Bernhard, a native of South Bend, Indiana. Her father, Adam Bernhard, was born in Germany, and as a young man emigrated to this country, settling in Indiana. To him and his wife Elizabeth, five children were born, as follows: Rose; George; Fred; Melvin; and Emma, Mrs. Fulk. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Fulk has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Murl, a physician and surgeon, employed in the Charity Hospital at Cleveland, Ohio, married Lucile Worley, of Bloomington, Indiana; John married Nora Norris, of Kirkland Township, and has three children, Helen, Marie, and Lucile; Jacob, deceased; and Arthur, born in 1899, living with his father. Mrs. Fulk died in August, 1907. True to the religious faith in which she was reared, Mrs. Fulk was a member of the Evangelical Church, and Mr. Fulk belongs to the German Reform Church, having been baptized by the Rev. Dan Byerly. Politically Mr. Fulk is independent, casting his vote for what he deems the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions.

C. G. Woodward. As proprietor of the Elmwood Stock Farm, C. G. Woodward, of Jefferson Township, Wells County, Indiana, has built up a reputation for fine cattle and stock that extends over the state. Mr. Woodward is one of the thoroughly experienced young men in this business in this section, and his enterprise and progressiveness have had much to do with raising stock standards in Wells County. Mr. Woodward belongs to one of the old county families that have been identified with development here for many years, and was born in Jefferson Township October 21, 1880. His parents were George T. and Mary (Glass) Woodward.

After completing his education Mr. Woodward decided to turn his attention to the producing of the finest cattle and hogs that could be raised in this section. He was led thereto, perhaps through an inherited instinct, for it is remembered that his grandfather, James Wilson Glass, was one of the most extensive stock breeders and buyers in the country and forty-six years ago exhibited prize cattle of his own breeding. His grandson went into the business probably better equipped scientifically than he, and his success during the last twelve years shows that he thoroughly understands the business.

Mr. Woodward came to his present farm, where he has eighty acres, in March, 1913. While he engages in general farming to some extent, the main business is the scientific breeding of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and his industry is so carefully and methodically carried on that he has his product ready for the market at all times. Mr. Woodward has made adequate provision for the furtherance of his business and his barns and stables are of modern sanitary construction and equipped with conveniences that once would have been considered luxuries for the family. Surely this might have been so in the pioneer days when a primitive log cabin gave the family shelter but very often little else. The high-bred animals handled by Mr. Woodward are too valuable to be subjected to any such hardship. He has made a close study of his work and is considered an authority by the different breeders' associations in the country.

Mr. Woodward was married to Miss Eva May Mills, who was born in Jefferson Township, Wells County, and is a daughter of Alfred and Catherine Mills. Mrs. Woodward had one brother, Fred, who is deceased, and has two sisters: Minnie, who is the wife of James Archibold, of Jefferson Township; and Nellie, who is the wife of W. Wasson. Mr. and Mrs. Woodward had four children, Edith, Mary Veronica, aged respectively seven and three years, and a baby named Dorothy Marie; the first born was a boy, Clarence, who died aged two years and two months.

In his political views Mr. Woodward has always been a democrat and is a loyal supporter of his party's candidates but has never been willing to accept public office for himself. In his church relation he is a Presbyterian. He is one of the county's representative business men and his honorable methods have won him the respect and confidence of the business world.

George M. T. Houck. In Kirkland Township of Adams County, where he played as a boy, where his productive years as a farmer have been passed, and where the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens have grown in concentrated power, George M. T. Houck has served for the past five years as township trustee, and has used the partial leisure from his former strenuous occupation as a farmer to make this office an opportunity of the greatest possible service to his home community. That the affairs of the township, especially the schools, were ever in better or more efficient hands is extremely doubtful.

Mr. Houck has lived in Adams County nearly all his life but was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, July 19, 1849, son of Henry and Nancy (Cronk) Houck. His parents were also natives of Ohio and in 1853 brought their family from Mahoning County to Indiana. Adams County had been settled and organized nearly twenty years but still was far from a completely developed region. Perhaps the greater part of the land was still uncleared and either heavily timbered or swampy and poorly drained. It was on a tract of this type of wild land that the Houck family settled in Kirkland Township. Henry Houck provided a log cabin and a log barn as his first preparations for living on the land, and after that he kept up his systematic industry until nearly all the acres were cleared and under cultivation and all of the low ground was thoroughly tiled and drained. He had also replaced his log houses with a good residence and barns. He and his wife had seven children, George, Alice L., Effie, Curtis, Mary, Rosa and Anna. The last four named died while comparatively young.

George M. T. Houck, who was the oldest of his parents' children, was four years of age when he came to Indiana. He grew up on the new farm of his parents and found constant occupation for his developing strength in the woods or in the fields. His education was limited to a few terms of winter school and as the oldest of the children the responsibilities of handling the farm devolved upon his youthful shoulders at an early age. The homestead comprised eighty acres in section 26 of Kirkland Township. He lived there until he was about twenty-three, married then, and after his marriage bought eighty acres in section 34, Kirkland Township. There he established his home, improved his land, and still owns sixty acres, which has responded to his efforts as an agriculturist for many successive seasons. He has prospered, and his prosperity is evidenced by a fine modern home, ample barns and other outbuildings, much tiled draining where necessary and a highly methodical and systematic management of all his farming affairs.

Mr. Houck has regularly affiliated with the democratic party in his

political relationship. He was justice of the peace eleven years, has served as township supervisor and assessor, and in 1912 came into his present office as township trustee, the most important office in the gift of his fellow citizens in the township. Mr. Houck is affiliated with Decatur Lodge No. 167 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is one of the oldest members of that lodge, his affiliation going back more than thirty years. He and his family are members of the Christian Union Church.

January 21, 1872, Mr. Houck married Miss Mary D. Cline, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Kepple) Cline. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, lived in Trumbull County, Ohio, and in 1843 came to Indiana and bought 240 acres of wild land in section 34 of Kirkland Township, Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Houck through all their active relations with the community have been great home people, and have given Adams County one of its finest families. They became the parents of eleven children, and the names of these in order of birth are noted as follows: Teresa, born February 22, 1873, deceased; Martha F., born December 21, 1874, deceased; Anna, born September 2, 1876, deceased; Mary M., born January 29, 1878; Charles H., born March 19, 1879; Hattie F., born September 21, 1881; Lillie M., born October 29, 1883; Bessie J., born May 25, 1886; Rolla M., born September 7, 1888; Clayton A., born October 18, 1893; and Olga E., born October 12, 1895.

William B. Weldy, who was born in Adams County over sixty-five years ago, represents the second generation of the family in this county and it is a name that deserves honorable mention in connection with pioneer events as well as subsequent development and progress. Some family names have gathered around them associations of special connection with certain lines of industry or certain other dominant characteristics. The name Weldy apparently wherever found or at least whenever record has been made, is associated with the sturdiest and most productive type of farmers and every farmer who is a Weldy is presumptively a good business man and a most honorable type of citizen.

The founder of the Weldy family in Kirkland Township of Adams County was the late Daniel Weldy, who was lacking in none of the familiar virtues of capable agricultural and business talents and was also notable for his splendid citizenship and the length and vigor of his life. He lived to be more than fourscore and five years of age. It was more than seventy years ago that he invaded the wilderness of Adams County. Daniel Weldy was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 3, 1822, son of Peter and Susanna (Huddle) Weldy, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. Peter Weldy was a pioneer in Ohio and lived in that state until his death in 1877. Daniel Weldy grew up in Ohio and in 1845 coming to Adams County, Indiana, secured a wooded tract of eighty acres in Kirkland Township. He was the first owner to attempt to make the land productive. He built a cabin of hewed logs, cleared away the timber for his first field, shot game to supply his table with meat and all in all conducted himself as a most capable pioneer, one who never relied upon his own resources in vain, and was a man of much value to the community. He lived on his farm for a period of more than fifty-five years, and developed it until it ranked second to none in the entire county in point of fertility and productiveness. In 1900 he moved to Decatur, and after that lived retired in a fine home which he bought on First Street. At one time Daniel Weldy was regarded as one of the large land owners in Adams County, possessing over 800 acres in three townships. He was not content to own much land and raise crops merely, but from the first appreciated

and cultivated high class livestock. He made a specialty of Berkshire and Poland China hogs. In 1863 Daniel Weldy became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and retained his membership throughout the rest of his life.

His public service is something that deserves a paragraph by itself. He was one of those who upheld the necessity of public education in his township. He was the man who in the capacity of trustee of Kirkland Township erected the first log schoolhouse. His services to the community were many and varied. He was township trustee fifteen years, justice of the peace in the township eleven years, a member of the board of county commissioners six years, and for many years a supervisor.

Daniel Weldy married Miss Elizabeth Beery, daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Miller) Beery, her parents spending their lives in Fairfield County, Ohio. Daniel Weldy and wife had eleven children: Christian, Seth, William, Barbara, Sarah, Mary, Abraham, Rachel, Ellen, Daniel and Eli.

William B. Weldy was born on his father's old homestead in Kirkland Township November 12, 1850. As a boy he came to appreciate some of the environment which had characterized the earliest pioneer epoch in Adams County, and the many days he spent on his father's land in clearing away the timber and underbrush gave him an understanding of the toil of the pioneer which he has never lost in all his subsequent prosperity and with the surroundings of modern appliances to which he has become accustomed. His boyhood days alternated between attending the district schools and the work of the household. He has found farming the best and most profitable occupation for his energies, and for many years has had a place of over 200 acres, most of it under cultivation, though a considerable era has been retained in native timber. To put him in the list with the most successful farmers of Adams County is only doing what would be justified in the opinion of all his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Weldy like his honored father has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, has voted the republican ticket, has served as supervisor and in other local offices of trust. He and his family are members of the Church of the Brethren in Christ. On April 5, 1877, he married Elizabeth Hartman, daughter of John and Caroline (Steel) Hartman. John Hartman was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in 1792 and moved to Adams County, Indiana, in 1849. The next year he married Caroline Steel, who was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, in 1828 and came to Indiana with her parents in 1848. John Hartman settled on land which he took up from the Government and developed a large farm of over 300 acres. He died in 1870, leaving one of the valuable country estates of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Weldy had four children, two, Eva E. and Stella C., dying in girlhood or young womanhood. The two still living are Oscar D. and Mabel E. Oscar D. married Miss Bessie J. Pease of Adams County and their two children are Brice P. and Max William. The daughter Mabel is the wife of Royce Marshall of Wells County and they have no children.

William F. Jaebker. Conspicuously identified with the mercantile affairs of Adams County, William F. Jaebker, of Preble, head of the firm of William F. Jaebker & Son, is carrying on an extensive business as a general merchant, his department store being well stocked with goods of a high grade, his endeavor being to meet the demands of his each and every customer, whether from town or country. A son of G. H. Jaebker, he was born in Preble Township, Adams County, September 28, 1856, coming on both sides of the house of German ancestry.

Born and reared in Germany, G. H. Jaebker immigrated to the United States as a young man, crossing the ocean in 1836. Coming to Indiana in pioneer days, he settled in Preble Township while the country roundabout was still in its pristine wildness, and in the development of its resources took an active part. He was not only a farmer, but he was a clergyman of note, serving for thirty-two years as pastor of the German Lutheran Church in the Village of Freitheim, and at the same time had charge of another church in that vicinity. He was a man of brilliant intellect, and much esteemed, not only by his congregation, but by his fellowmen. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Anna Christian, eight children were born, namely: Louise, deceased; Elizabeth; Mary; William F.; August; Henry; Anna, deceased; and Herman.

Brought up in Preble Township, William F. Jaebker was educated in the parochial and public schools, and as a young man was variously employed. In January, 1898, he embarked in mercantile pursuits, settling in the Village of Preble, where he has a most favorable location. Fortunate in his undertakings, Mr. Jaebker has each year enlarged his operations, and is now carrying a full line of the best grade of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, and hardware of all kinds. In addition to this, he is rendering the public satisfactory service as postmaster. On January 1, 1917, Mr. Jaebker admitted to partnership his son, Robert, the firm name becoming William F. Jaebker & Son. The firm has a good standing in banking and commercial circles, and is everywhere spoken of in terms of commendation. It has a large patronage in both town and country, having an auto delivery route, and has an extensive trade with the farmers, exchanging goods for farm produce, for which the highest market prices are always paid.

On April 27, 1882, Mr. Jaebker married Sophia Buuck, a daughter of Detrich and Mary Buuck, of Adams County, who were the parents of ten children, Eliza, Fred, Mary, Anna, Henry, Albert, Adolph, Charlie, Paul, and Sophia. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jaebker, namely: Rudolph, deceased; Fred married Emma Heckman, and they have one child, Frederick; Johanna, wife of Otto Peters, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Sophia, wife of Martin Meehl, has one child, Mildred; and Robert, who married Amanda Werling. Politically Mr. Jaebker is identified with the democratic party. True to the religious faith in which they were reared, Mr. and Mrs. Jaebker are Lutherans.

Ricklef B. Johnson. Like many of the enterprising and prosperous citizens of Adams County, Ricklef B. Johnson, of Peterson, was born across the sea, and has brought to the country of his adoption those habits of industry and thrift that have won him success in the business world, and those sterling traits of character that have given him an assured position among the respected and valued men of his community. He was born, January 22, 1840, in Germany, where his parents, Henry B. and Louise (Baker) Johnson, spent their entire lives.

Brought up and educated in the fatherland, Mr. Johnson served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade when young, making a practical use of his mechanical talent and ability. Sailing for the United States in 1866, he landed at Baltimore in the month of May. Coming from there to Indiana, he established a smithy in the northwest corner of Root Township, Adams County, and conducted it successfully for three years. Moving then to Washington Township, Mr. Johnson invested his money in eighty acres of land, and was there engaged in general farming for about three years. Preferring to expend his time and energies in mechanical labor rather than in agricultural pursuits, Mr. Johnson located

in the Village of Peterson, where he is carrying on an extensive and substantial business, being ever busily employed at his blacksmith and general repair shop.

Mr. Johnson married Louisa Baker. She was born in Germany, and has one brother, John, living in Kirkland Township, Adams County. Eight children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, namely: William, who married a Miss Dillman, of Warren County, Indiana; Herman; Clara, wife of Grant Ball, of Wells County, Indiana; Mary, deceased; Martha, wife of Burt Lenhart, of Decatur, Indiana; Rosa, deceased; Ida, deceased; and Emma, deceased. Mrs. Johnson was reared in the religious faith of the Brethren in Christ, and Mr. Johnson is a member of the German Lutheran Church. In politics he is a democrat, and a good worker in party ranks.

Samuel A. Kinsey. Enterprising and energetic, Samuel A. Kinsey is actively identified with the mercantile affairs of Wells County, being proprietor of a general store and restaurant in the Village of Curryville, where his name is well established, it being synonymous with honesty, thrift and prosperity. A native of this state, he was born, October 3, 1874, in Noble County, a son of Henry and Hattie (Amazon) Kinsey, and grandson of Christian and Mary Kinsey, pioneer settlers of Northeastern Indiana.

Henry Kinsey was long engaged in agricultural pursuits, having owned and occupied a farm of forty acres in Whitley County, Indiana, where his death occurred April 24, 1883. His widow survived him many years, dying in 1903. They reared a family of seven children, as follows: William C.; Mary; Samuel A.; Elizabeth; Walter, deceased; Ida; and Jessie.

Having obtained a practical education in the public schools, Samuel A. Kinsey served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, which he followed successfully for several years, his mechanical ability being recognized. Locating in Curryville in 1913, Mr. Kinsey embarked in mercantile pursuits, and as proprietor of a well managed general store and a popular restaurant, has built up a patronage in both lines of business.

On October 2, 1888, Mr. Kinsey married Hattie J. Plank, a daughter of Enos and Sarah E. Plank, who reared three other children: Oscar, Frank and Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey have four children, namely: Mildred Cleo, a high school graduate, married Earl Guy, and has one child, Evelyn, born in 1915; Carl Henry, born in 1901; Roy Enos, born in 1908; and Frances Lucile, born in 1915. Mr. Kinsey is a stanch prohibitionist, and an active worker in the temperance cause. Both he and his wife are valued members of the Christian Church, and liberal contributors towards its support.

Jay B. Stoutenbery, one of the able veterinary surgeons of Adams County, is widely and favorably known throughout this section of the country, and through his successful professional labors has gained a well-merited reputation for skill and ability. He was born in Ross County, Ohio, September 5, 1849, a son of Jacob Stoutenbery, and grandson of Henry and Rachael Stoutenbery.

Born in the State of New York, Jacob Stoutenbery started westward soon after his marriage, and settled with his bride on 160 acres of wild land in Ross County, Ohio. The land was in its original wildness, and his first work was to clear a space in which to rear the log cabin for himself and wife. He improved a homestead, and in addition to farming was for some years pastor of a Methodist Episcopal Church in

Marion County, Ohio. His closing years, however, were spent in Indiana, at the home of his son, Jay B. Stoutenbery, with whom he lived for nineteen years. He married Elizabeth Crider, who was born in the Empire State, a daughter of George Crider. Three children were born to them, namely: Sarah, who married Peter Porough, of Delphi, Indiana; Matilda A., wife of A. M. Abrams, of Mendota, Illinois; and Jay B.

Laying a substantial foundation for his future education in the public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jay B. Stoutenbery fitted himself for a professional career at the Baker College of Veterinary Science, acquiring a thorough knowledge of his chosen profession. Coming to Adams County, Indiana, with a view of buying land, he settled in Kirkland Township on November 17, 1882, and in the time that has since intervened he has cleared and improved a fine farm of eighty acres, it now being one of the best in its appointments of any in the township, and a credit to him, bearing evidence in its general appearance of the thrift and excellent management of the owner. In addition to his agricultural operations, Mr. Stoutenbery has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in this vicinity for upwards of thirty years, being well patronized in his own and nearby townships.

Mr. Stoutenbery married, June 27, 1876, Rachel Shannon. Her parents, Andrew C. and Mary (Haley) Shannon, natives of Darke County, Ohio, reared seven children, as follows: Sarah; Hugh Alexander; Julius; Rachel, now Mrs. Stoutenbery; Henrietta; Mary; and Anna. Mr. and Mrs. Stoutenbery have three children, namely: Emma May, born August 3, 1882, married Alfred Beavers, and has three children, Ida Cleo, Alfred K., and Clarence J.; Eldora, born August 19, 1884, is the wife of W. M. Douglas, of Darke County, Ohio, and has two children, Harold B. and Warren W.; and Leona, born June 21, 1896, married Amos K. Stoneburner, and they have four children, Eva May, Helen L., Ralph J., and Mabel Marie. Politically Mr. Stoutenbery invariably supports the principles of the republican party. Fraternally he is a member of Galion, Ohio, Lodge No. 414, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; and of Galion Chapter No. 327, Royal Arch Masons.

Ernst Fuelling. This is one of the honored names in the history of Adams County and is especially well known in Root Township, where the Fuellings have been substantial farmers and public spirited citizens from early times to the present.

It was on the old homestead in Root Township that Ernst Fuelling was born on March 26, 1867. His parents were Fred and Lizetta Fuelling, who came to Indiana from Maryland. The mother was a native of Germany and was brought to this country at the age of three years. After their marriage they settled on eighty acres of wild land in Root Township, and the father was able to clear and improve it and put it in good condition before his death, which occurred in 1870. His widow survived him many years and passed away in 1901. Their first home was a log house, and that building is still an interesting structure because of its family associations and is still standing on the farm. Both parents were connected with the German Lutheran Church. Their children were Fred, William, Sophia, Lizetta and Ernst.

Mr. Ernst Fuelling grew up in the same locality where he was born, was educated in the public schools and also in the German parochial school and has spent most of the years of his life on the old homestead. In 1900 he inherited the 150 acres comprising his present farm. The resources thus placed in his hands he has managed with profit and advantage and is one of Adams County's farmers who are helping to

feed the world. All his buildings are very substantial and attractive. Mr. Fuelling is a democrat and a member of the Lutheran Church, and his children were educated in the Lutheran parochial schools and in the public schools.

On December 16, 1900, he married Sophia Busick, daughter of Frederick and Sophia Busick, of Root Township. Mrs. Fuelling has six brothers living, William, Fred, Henry, August, Edward and Theodore, and one sister and one brother dead, Lizzie and Martin. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Fuelling are Arthur, aged eleven; Alma, aged nine; and Louis, aged seven.

PHILIP BAKER'S recollections of this county go back to the time of his boyhood, more than sixty years ago. The family is a numerous one and they have always borne the reputation of honest and substantial citizens and for the most part have been splendid representatives of the agricultural type.

Mr. Baker was born in Champaign County, Ohio, March 15, 1846, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Hower) Baker. His parents came originally from York County, Pennsylvania, were pioneers in Clark County, Ohio, and about 1828 settled in Champaign County of that state. On both sides the family is of German stock. When Philip Baker was ten years old, in August, 1856, his parents moved to Adams County and a year later settled upon the farm in Root Township where Mr. Baker now lives. This was a tract of wild land comprising eighty acres, and its improvements as well as its subsequent care and productive development have been the work and result of constant expenditure of labor upon the part of the Baker family.

Jacob Baker was long and prominently known in Adams County, and died here in July, 1893. He had survived his wife many years, her death having occurred in 1863, when Philip was seventeen years old. They had a large family of children, named: Susanna, deceased; Phillip; Joseph, deceased; William H.; Mary E., deceased; John M.; Sarah E., deceased; and Thomas A., deceased.

Mr. Philip Baker was reared and educated in Adams County, attended the common schools of Root Township, and his early training and discipline on the home farm fitted him for the vocation which he followed for many years. For fourteen years Mr. Baker lived in Decatur and was engaged in the manufacture of saddle stirrups. In January, 1894, he bought the old homestead from his father's estate and has managed it so as to provide amply for the needs of his family and to produce a reasonable competence for his later years. Mr. Baker is a democrat in politics, though more and more inclined to independence in casting his vote. He is affiliated with St. Mary's Lodge No. 167 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Decatur. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

November 18, 1877, Mr. Baker married Nancy B. Kimsey, daughter of William and Nancy Kimsey. Her brothers and sisters were: John, deceased; Sarah E.; William T.; Robert N., deceased; Joseph F., deceased; Mary E., deceased; and Emma, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Baker's children are Bertha A., who married Emerson Elzey and lives in Van Wert County, Ohio; Charles E., who married Flossie Bolinger and lives at Decatur; Harvy M., who married Augusta Ketchum; Alva D., who married Annota M. Dailey, of Root Township; Franklin O., who married Opal Butcher, of Root Township; Lola D. and Lulu B., twins; and Carl, deceased. Of the twin daughters, Lola married William J. McCague, and Lulu is now deceased. The grandchildren are: The two children of Alva D. are Philip D. and Forest; Franklin O. has three children, Otis Melroy, Kenneth C. and Vernon M.; Mrs. Lola D. McCague

has two children, Frances B. and Philip A.; Mrs. Bertha Elzey has one child, Dorothy L.; Charles Edward has two children, Mildred and Charles E., Jr.; Harvy M. has one child, Marion H.

Phil L. Schieferstein is one of the prominent residents of Root Township and has spent nearly all the years of his active manhood in cultivating one of the admirably situated and fine farms of that vicinity.

He and his family are well known in Adams and Allen counties. Mr. Schieferstein was born in Marion Township of Allen County, January 9, 1872. He is a son of George and Elizabeth (Brown) Schieferstein, old time residents of Allen County. George Schieferstein came to the United States from Prussia, Germany, in 1850. He was a single man then, had given service for three years in the German army, and came to this country in company with the Brown family, whose daughter he afterward married. His first home in Indiana was a small log cabin about five miles from Fort Wayne on the Peter Smith farm. He lived there about two years, and his principal occupation was cutting cord wood at 20 cents a cord. He was poor but industrious, a man of strict probity, got along well with his neighbors, and in the course of time his labors began to show fruit. In 1861 he bought a farm of his own, consisting of eighty acres, and from that time forward his prosperity has been on the increase. The land which he bought was acquired by Government title and was in an absolutely primitive condition. He cleared away a few acres and built the humble home in which his son Phil and six other children were born. Four of the family are still living: Harry, Fred, Phil and George. The daughter Christina died several years ago.

George Schieferstein in 1881 bought fifty-five acres in Root Township of Adams County, and this is the land now occupied by Henry Schieferstein. Phil Schieferstein grew up at the old home in Allen County, acquired a common school education, and by experience and observation has perfected himself as a practical and progressive farmer. His home is in Root Township, a short distance from the old Village of Monmouth and about three miles north of Decatur.

Phil Schieferstein married Miss Ada May Lewton, daughter of L. W. and Mary Lewton, of Monmouth, Root Township. To their marriage were born three children, Thurman D., Marlow F. and Elizabeth Hattie. These children have all had the advantages of the local district and high schools. Mrs. Schieferstein has brothers and sisters named C. D., Amos, Edgar, Effie M. and Daisy. Effie married L. W. Frank and Daisy married Vesta Brokaw.

Mr. Schieferstein bought two other farms in Root Township, the McConnell and Bottenberg farms, comprising altogether 117 acres. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Henry A. Breiner. Actively identified with the mercantile affairs of Adams County, Henry A. Breiner, a prominent merchant in the Village of Peterson, is widely and favorably known throughout Kirkland Township, his name being synonomous with thrift, enterprise, and prosperity. A son of Michael Breiner, he was born in Adams County, and has always lived in this section of Indiana.

In 1858 Michael Breiner came from Pennsylvania with his wife to Indiana, looking for a favorable place to locate. Settling in Adams County, he purchased sixty acres of heavily timbered land, and immediately began the seemingly Herculean task of redeeming a farm from the wilderness. In common with his pioneer neighbors, he labored cheerfully and willingly, and in due season had a well improved homestead, upon which he spent the remainder of his days, dying in July,

1898. He was a man of sterling worth, and highly respected throughout his community. Both he and his good wife were members of the German Lutheran Church. He married, in Pennsylvania, Hannah Beltz, whose death occurred on the home farm in January, 1882. They were the parents of four children, as follows: James, deceased; William; Emma; and Henry A.

Henry A. Breiner received a practical education when young, but instead of taking up the independent occupation to which he was reared, not finding farming congenial to his tastes, he embarked in mercantile pursuits, a business for which he is well fitted. Opening a general store in the Village of Peterson, Kirkland Township, in 1897, he has met with well deserved success. From time to time he has enlarged his operations, and now carries a full line of general merchanise, including groceries, dry goods, and hardware, and also deals in coal, and as postmaster has charge of all mail coming to Peterson. Mr. Breiner likewise handles much of the grain raised in this section of Adams County, conducting the elevator in his village. He makes a specialty of trading with the farmers of his vicinity, exchanging his merchandise for their farm produce, allowing them the highest market prices. He conducts his business under the name of H. A. Breiner, General Merchandise.

Mr. Breiner married Emma F. Fruechte, a daughter of William and Bernardina Fruechte, and their only child, Milton, died when but four years and eight months of age. Mrs. Breiner's father was born in Preble Township, Adams County, Indiana; and her mother was born in Germany. She has one brother living, Martin Fruechte. She is a member of the German Reformed Church, to which her parents belonged.

James D. Brown, Jr., of Kirkland Township, is proprietor of a fine farm, which in regard to its appointments compares favorably with any in the locality, its neatness and orderly appearance giving evidence to the most casual observer of the thrift, enterprise and good management of the owner. Born, August 11, 1878, in Adams County, he came of pioneer stock, his grandparents on both sides of the house, William B. Brown and Henry Good, having been pioneer settlers of Indiana.

His father, Robert H. Brown, spent his entire life in Indiana. He was identified with the agricultural interests of Adams County, and in addition to carrying on general farming did most of the threshing among the farmers of his neighborhood, carrying on a substantial business in that line. He was enterprising and energetic, and had the distinction of having bought the first "Huber" steam thresher ever brought into Adams County.

Robert H. Brown was twice married. He married first Sophia Good, who was born in Indiana in 1847, four years later than he, his birth having occurred November 24, 1843. She died at a comparatively early age, leaving the following-named children: James D., Austin T., Leo Lecretia, Margaret Caroline, Mary Elizabeth, and Eliza Rebecca. The maiden name of the second wife of R. H. Brown was Catherine Dearduff. She bore him four children, Jessy A., Robert E., Lucy O., and John F., the latter now in the regular army.

Acquiring a good education in the common and graded schools of Adams County, James D. Brown embarked upon a professional career, and taught in every school in Kirkland Township with the exception of the school at Peterson, and also taught for two years in French Township, Adams County, as a teacher meeting with eminent success. Relinquishing his profession in 1914, Mr. Brown settled upon his present farm on the fourth day of March, and immediately began the improvement of its forty acres. Fortune favored his efforts, and in February,

1911, he purchased the estate known as the "Ezra Reber Forty," and has now a finely managed farm of eighty acres, a considerable part of which he has cleared himself. Well skilled in agriculture, he is especially successful in the raising of uniform crops, paying especial attention to the details of his work.

On December 16, 1903, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Lena Adler, a daughter of William and Christena Adler, of Adams County, whose sketch appears elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two children, William Alton and Robert Lewis. Politically Mr. Brown uniformly casts his vote in favor of the democratic party.

JEFFERSON G. CRUM. Among the energetic and progressive men who are aiding in every possible manner the growth and development of Adams County, whether relating to its agricultural or industrial prosperity, is Jefferson G. Crum of Kirkland Township, deserving of mention in a work of this character. A son of Daniel Crum, he was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, November 30, 1859, and there spent his childhood days.

Daniel Crum was born, reared and educated in Pennsylvania. He there married Elizabeth Diehl, and soon after removed to Mahoning County, Ohio. Buying land that was in its primitive condition, he erected a log cabin, barns, and other buildings, and was there employed as a tiller of the soil until his death, in 1865. The following year, in 1866, his widow came with her six children to Adams County, Indiana, and settled on the eighty acres of land now owned and occupied by her sons Jefferson and David. She was a woman of good business ability, and spent the remainder of her life on the farm which she had purchased. She reared six children, namely: Frank, David, Melissa, Rebecca, Jefferson G., and James.

Frank Crum, the oldest child, now deceased, married Emma, daughter of Constant and Elizabeth Eli, and at his death left four children, William, Charles, Amos, and Molly. David never married. Melissa, wife of Tillman Robenold, has four children, William, Charles, Floyd, and Daisy Ann is deceased. Rebecca, who married Wolf Cale, has five children, Howard, Charles, Mabel, Ward, and Delbert. James Crum married Nora Church, of Adams County, and they are parents of five children, Gladys, Mitchell, Levaun, Elsie, and Spafford.

Coming with his widowed mother from Ohio to Indiana, where her two brothers, now deceased, were then living, Jefferson G. Crum was educated in the district schools, and later served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. In 1899 Mr. Crum and his brother David purchased the interests of the other heirs in his mother's estate, which now consists of seventy-nine acres, one acre having been sold for school property. Although he is a practical and successful agriculturist, he prefers working at his trade rather than at farming, and has built a large percentage of the houses and buildings in this locality, each and all of which bespeak his thorough knowledge of the different branches of carpentry and joining.

Like his brother David, Mr. Crum is still a bachelor. He is a democrat in his political affiliations, but has never been an aspirant for official honors.

JOHN MILLER, a hard working, industrious and highly respected citizen of Preble Township, has one special distinction which indicates better than anything else the position he enjoys in his community—as incumbent of the office of trustee of Preble Township, to which he was elected in November, 1914. Mr. Miller has faithfully and capably

administered the duties of that office for the past three years, and it is generally admitted that the schools, roads, and other matters within his official jurisdiction were never in better condition than at present.

Mr. Miller was born in Preble Township of Adams County February 22, 1867, a son of Adam and Mary (Dicks) Miller. His father was born in Germany, came to the United States at the age of twenty-three, found employment which kept him in New York for one year, then came on west to Ohio where he bought a small tract of land from the government, and after clearing this up he sold out to advantage and moved on to Adams County, Indiana. Here he also acquired government land, and it was his custom for several years to bring a small portion of land under partial improvement and cultivation and then sell out to some of the recently arrived settlers from his native land of Germany, after which he would invest the proceeds in another tract and begin its development. This continued for several years until he had the means that enabled him to buy in 1853 the farm on which his son John now lives. This farm comprises eighty acres of first class land, improved with good buildings, and some of the clearing and much of the improvement was made by John Miller himself, who began the work when a mere boy.

John Miller was educated in the common schools of Preble Township, and to quote his own words, "his schooling was composed of hard work." In 1887 he bought and took possession of the old homestead from his father's estate, and has remained there prospering and carrying on his business as a general farmer for fifty years.

Mr. Miller married Emma Reppert December 3, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have children named Alfred, Adella, Otto, Hubert, Edwin, Manda, Lorena and Harold, all of whom have had the advantages of the public schools. Mrs. Miller's brothers and sisters are Albert, Lydia and Oswald.

HENRY F. FUELLING. Practically all his life has Henry F. Fuelling been a resident of Adams County. He grew up here in a rural environment, mastered by experience the fundamentals of agriculture, and is today cultivating one of the best farms of Root Township, an estate that originally belonged to his father.

Mr. Fuelling was born in Root Township December 16, 1872, a son of Henry D. and Sophia (Hoppe) Fuelling. Both his parents were natives of Germany. Henry Fuelling was two years of age when brought to this country by his parents, and the family at that time settled upon the tract of land which is now occupied by another branch of the family, Charles Fuelling. Henry Fuelling grew up here, later acquired a tract of land from the government, which he cleared and improved, and became a man respected for his success, his good judgment and his integrity. For several years he was justice of the peace and also a county commissioner. He died in February, 1900, and his wife passed away in 1881. They had eleven children: Ernest, Fred, Harmon, Henry, Andrew, Louis, Sophia, Lucetta, Eliza, Caroline, and Amelia.

Henry F. Fuelling grew up on his father's farm, attended the Lutheran parochial schools in Root Township and, as were his parents, was an active member of the Lutheran Church. After his father's death he bought the farm from the estate and is now busily engaged in its cultivation and improvement, and has proved a man of such energy as to be able liberally to provide the necessities and conveniences and comforts for the family dependent upon him.

Mr. Fuelling is a democrat in politics. He married Miss Mary

Heidegger, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Heidegger, of Adams County. They married December 30, 1890, and are the parents of three children, Paul, aged sixteen; Rudolph, aged fourteen, and Lydia, aged eleven. Mr. and Mrs. Fuelling have taken great pains to give their children the best of advantages in the local schools. Mrs. Fuelling's brother and sisters are Lydia, Annie, and Jacob.

CONRAD C. WILLIAM CHRISTIANER. To give the complete record of the Christianer family in Adams County it would be necessary to go back to very early times, when practically all the land was in a state of nature. It was the hard work of members of this family, carried on from year to year and from season to season, which made productive many acres of the fine soil found in Root Township. A considerable area of this land is now owned by Conrad C. William Christianer, who has distinguished himself as a thorough and industrious agriculturist and not lacking in those qualities which make up the public spirited citizens.

Mr. Christianer was born in Root Township, February 3, 1863, a son of Christopher and Maria (Knapp) Christianer. His father was nineteen years of age when he left his native land of Germany and came to the United States. He came poor in purse but ambitious to make a place for himself in the new world. For five years he worked on a canal boat from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Gradually he accumulated his modest savings and then came into Adams County and bought the farm on which his son Conrad now lives. This was then a tract of eighty acres secured direct from the government, and he never once faltered in the tremendous task of clearing it up. After he had lived there two years he married, and then built the old log house where most of his children were born and reared and which is still standing as a landmark among the larger and more modern structures. Christopher Christianer subsequently bought another eighty acres, cleared and improved that, and in the course of time his prosperity made him one of the most substantial citizens of the county.

The comfortable old residence was erected in 1872, but was extensively remodeled in 1912, at which time a basement was installed and various other changes made. There are several other buildings, and the entire group stand as a credit to the farm and the township. Christopher Christianer was quite prominent in the German Lutheran Church, held many of the church offices, and his entire life was one that reflected high honor upon his character. His wife was also a member of an old German family and she devoted herself for many years to the responsibilities of her children and to her duties as a devout Christian.

Conrad C. William Christianer grew up on his father's place, attended the German Lutheran and the public schools of Root Township, and has always followed farming. In October, 1908, he bought a portion of his father's estate and now has 160 acres, 120 acres cleared and the rest in native timber. He has been successful in growing all the staple crops of this community. Mr. Christianer is an active democrat and is loyal to the religious faith in which he was reared. He has a sister and brother still living, Louisa, wife of Frederick Boerger, and Henry, who married Louise Boerger.

Mr. Christianer married in November, 1894, Minnie Whietfeldt, daughter of Frederick and Louisa Whietfeldt, of Adams County. Six children have been born to their marriage, Sophia, Ida, Clara, Rosa, Oscar and Lydia. Only one is married, Sophia, wife of Frederick J. Yelt, living near Fort Wayne. All the children have the best advantages of the local public schools. Mrs. Christianer's brothers and sisters

are: Frederick, of Allen County, Indiana; William, of Michigan; Henry, of Allen County; Louisa, living in Nebraska; Sophia, of Allen County; Amelia, of Fort Wayne; Emma, also a resident of Fort Wayne, and Otto, on his father's old farm.

JOHN M. FRISINGER. Energetic, enterprising, and the possessor of excellent business ability, John M. Frisinger, of Decatur, is known throughout Adams and surrounding counties as an extensive horse breeder and dealer, and, previous to the World war, as one of the larger exporters and importers of horses in this section of the state. A son of Joseph Frisinger, he was born, November 27, 1859, in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, and, with the exception of two years spent in Van Wert County, Ohio, has spent his entire life in his native county.

Joseph Frisinger was born in Ohio, of German parentage, in 1836, and his wife, whose maiden name was Martha Smith, was born, in 1837, in Indiana, of pure Scotch ancestry. Both are living, as are all of their five children, four of whom are married, and have homes of their own.

Receiving a liberal education when young, John M. Frisinger taught school for seven years, a part of which time he had charge of schools in Ohio. Retiring from his professional labors, he entered upon an entirely different career, in June, 1895, exporting a load of horses to Germany, being the second man in the United States to embark in that industry. His first shipment, which consisted of good draft horses, he sold immediately, the demand for that kind of horses in Germany exceeding the supply. Continuing in that profitable industry until 1900, while operating in Germany, he sold draft horses to Swedish, Danish and Russian dealers, sometimes making two trips a year across the Atlantic. In the fall of 1900, Mr. Frisinger, while at the Paris Exposition, became convinced of the merits of the Belgian horses, and on his return to Indiana brought with him twelve registered stallions, for which he found ready sale. Some of these stallions are still in use in Adams County, and many of the descendants of that first dozen are in the county. Since that time he has imported Percherons which, like the Belgians, are held in high estimation by horse breeders in all parts of the country. Mr. Frisinger continued the business until the breaking out of the war, his last importation having been in the fall of 1913. He imported stallions that weighed 2,400 pounds, and he has sold in Adams County seventy-nine horses, and in nearby counties over 100 horses, receiving about $2,500 apiece for them. Among the many fine horses which he has imported is the well known stallion "Balladier," one of the very best in the country, and now owned by a Mercer County man. He has been an extensive breeder on his own account, for a time having had associated with him Eli Springer, who is now engaged in the same profitable business in Michigan.

Mr. Frisinger is now actively engaged in business in Decatur as a dealer in hay, and in Washington Township has a finely equipped farm of 300 acres, which he is managing successfully, getting satisfactory returns for the labor expended.

Mr. Frisinger married, in Adams County, Mary J. Peterson, the descendant of a pioneer family of prominence, and a sister of the well known lawyer Shaffer Peterson. Mr. and Mrs. Frisinger have six children, namely: Maynard, a former postmaster of Decatur, having been the youngest person to be appointed to a presidential position in the state, now in business with his father, married Mary Daily and has three children, Margaret, Robert and Elizabeth; Fannie, a graduate of the Indiana University, married Roger Gipe, an American soldier in the World's war; John F., also a graduate of the State University, and now

manager in Akron, Ohio, of the productive department of the Rubber Works, is a volunteer in the American army and has joined the forces; Mary, who attended Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, two years, and the Indiana University three years; Ruth, a pupil in the Decatur High School; and Richard, a school boy. Politically Mr. Frisinger is a republican and served as national elector on the ticket when Taft was elected. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has recently enlarged his activities by entering into the Southern lumber business. He has taken over a 3,000 acre plantation in Louisiana, Concordia, Paris County, which has a fine body of virgin hardwood timber.

Ezra Bugh. While all his life and experiences have been in Indiana, Mr. Ezra Bugh has been identified with the agricultural section of Adams County for only fourteen or fifteen years. He has one of the excellent farm homes of Hartford Township.

Mr. Bugh was born in Blackford County, Indiana, December 8, 1849, a son of Barnhart W. and Hannah (Coddington) Bugh. His father was of old Pennsylvania stock, born in that state June 13, 1805. The mother was born in Maryland June 14, 1807. They accompanied their respective families to Perry County, Ohio, where they grew up and married and in 1848 they settled in Indiana in Washington Township of Blackford County, where they spent many years among the highly respected members of the farming community. In January, 1870, they retired from their farm to Hartford City, where the father died March 29, 1877, and the mother on January 27, 1880. Barnhart Bugh began voting as a whig, took up the republican cause at the formation of that party, and for one term was a county commissioner of Blackford County. His religion was that of the Methodist Church, while his wife was a Baptist in faith. They had five sons and five daughters: William, deceased; Jacob, deceased, who served as a soldier in the Civil war; Jesse, a Union veteran who is still living at Hartford City; Ezra, who though very young at the time, was a member of the Home Guard during the war; Perry, of Hartford City; Elizabeth; Lydia, wife of George Frash; Catherine, wife of Levi Bowman; Mary, wife of Andrew Williams; and Jane, wife of John J. Woods, former county treasurer of Blackford County, the last named being the only one of the daughters now living.

Ezra Bugh's earliest recollections are of Blackford County during the '50s and during the Civil war period. His environment was a farm and his education was obtained in the district schools. He found occupation for his time and efforts on the home place until he was twenty-five, and on June 6, 1875, married Elizabeth Dildine. She was born in Blackford County September 27, 1853, daughter of Jesse Dildine. She grew up at Hartford City and acquired her education in the public schools there.

Mr. and Mrs. Bugh after their marriage lived in Hartford City for three years and they then went back to the old Bugh farm in that county and conducted it as renters for three years. Mr. Bugh then acquired a tract of woodland, eighty acres, and spent several years clearing and ditching it and putting it into shape for farming. He sold his Blackford County interests and on March 13, 1903, settled in Hartford Township of Adams County, where he bought the eighty acres comprising the north half of the northwest quarter of section 22. This is a farm well fitted for his needs, and furnishes him a comfortable living and a good home for his declining years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bugh have seven children, all living: Clara, wife of John Recob; Eva, wife of Charles Robinson; Edith, wife of Otta Sales;

Lottie, who married Lee Melich; Mabel, unmarried; Mary, wife of Lorenzo Jacobs; Walter, who lived in Kansas and married Alda Eckroat. Mr. Bugh in matters of politics supports the republican party.

Luther Martin was in business as a merchant at Geneva for a number of years, but is now giving his energies effectively to farming, operating one of the handsome and well improved places in Hartford Township of Adams County.

Mr. Martin represents some of the old established families of Adams County. His grandfather Josephus Martin was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, September 30, 1803. The grandfather of Josephus had located in Virginia about the time of the Revolutionary war. The Martins originally were of German ancestry. Josephus Martin in early childhood went with his parents to Marion County, Ohio, where he grew up and from where he came to Adams County, Indiana, as an early settler. Josephus Martin for a number of years conducted a good farm in section 24 of Hartford Township. He was twice married. His first wife was Catherine Summerfelt, who was born in New Jersey July 7, 1814, and they were married March 25, 1830. She died January 19, 1844, the mother of six children. On January 27, 1845, Josephus Martin married Elizabeth Deffenbaugh, daughter of John Deffenbaugh, one of the old settlers of Adams County. Among the children of his second wife were John, Ellen, Emma, Morton J. and Phoebe.

John A. Martin, representing the second generation of the family in Adams County, was born in Hartford Township April 30, 1849. He grew up on his father's farm, had a common school education, and from the time he was eighteen was self supporting. After his marriage he settled down on a farm and engaged in raising crops and stock until January, 1881, when he moved to Geneva and entered the mercantile business with W. W. Roberts as a partner. This partnership was continued until the death of John A. Martin on August 28, 1885. February 17, 1874, he married Elizabeth Baker who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 4, 1848. Her father Abraham S. Baker later became a pioneer settler in Harrison Township of Wells County, Indiana. John and Elizabeth Martin had four children: Effie, wife of Frank Filer of Geneva; Luther; Minnie, deceased; and Josephus, of Geneva.

Luther Martin was born on the same farm where he now lives in Hartford Township January 8, 1877. He was about eight years old when his father died and his early experiences were those of the average farmer boy. He lived also in the village of Geneva and attended school there, and had some experience clerking in a store for six years. For six years he was connected with the hardware and implement business at Geneva and then returned to the old farm, where he has lived now for many years prosperously and diligently and where he owns thirty-five and a half acres of land. Included in his agricultural operations are eighty acres. Mr. Martin is a republican voter and as a citizen all who know him have come to esteem his good judgment and his broad and liberal way of regarding questions and problems.

In 1898 Mr. Martin married Fannie Austin, a native of Randolph County, Indiana. They are the parents of five children: Margaret E., a graduate of the Geneva High School and still living at home; Josephine, who attends the Hartford Township High School; Lucile, a public school student; Luther L., and Florence.

Isaac J. Bowman of French Township is a representative of the self-made men, having achieved success in life through his untiring energy, diligence, and close application to his business affairs. A son

of Gideon Bowman, he was born in French Township, Adams County, Indiana, January 25, 1847.

A native of Pennsylvania, Gideon Bowman wended his way westward to Indiana when young, settling in Adams County. He subsequently bought 120 acres of land in French Township, and with true pioneer courage began the improvement of a homestead. Laboring day in and out, he cleared the farm on which he and his wife spent their remaining days. He married Alice Sutbine, a native of France, and they reared a family of six children, as follows: Isaac J. of this sketch; Angeline, deceased, was the wife of Henry J. Derr; A. M., living east of Decatur, Indiana; Elizabeth, wife of Dr. E. P. Davenport of Craigville, Indiana; Lauretta, wife of Frank Randall of Lancaster Township, Wells County; and Nettie, widow of Charles Shaffer.

Spending his early life in French Township, Isaac J. Bowman was educated in the district schools, and on the home farm, where he lived until twenty-one years old, acquired a varied and practical experience in the science of agriculture. Ambitious and enterprising, he then began the struggle of life for himself by buying forty-four acres of land in French Township, and running in debt for a part of the purchase price. But, with the resolute spirit of sturdy manhood, Mr. Bowman set to work with a determination to succeed, and ere many years had slipped by he had not only cleared his farm of indebtedness, but had added to its original acreage by purchase, and now has a finely improved estate of 245 acres, on which he is carrying on general farming and stock raising after the latest approved methods.

Mr. Bowman has been twice married. He married first Anna Houck. She died in early womanhood, leaving one son, Van Bowman, a farmer in Monroe Township. Mr. Bowman married for his second wife Maryette Urick, and to them four children have been born, namely: Josephine, wife of Art Baumgartner of Decatur, Indiana; Mary, living at home; Harvey, also living with his parents; and one child died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman are valued members of the Zion Church and generous contributors towards its support. Politically Mr. Bowman is an active and useful member of the democratic party, and though not an aspirant for official favors has served as township supervisor.

J. H. Reiff. Whether as a farmer, merchant or practical all around citizen, probably no individual has done more or worked harder for progress and upbuilding at Geneva and in that vicinity than J. H. Reiff. Mr. Reiff now has a good farm in Hartford Township, getting his mail over Rural Route No. 1 out of Geneva.

He is a native of Wells County, born in Nottingham Township, August 30, 1860, son of Jerome B. and Mary (Souers) Reiff. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of West Virginia. They were married in Wells County, Indiana, and then settled down on a farm in Nottingham Township. Jerome Reiff was a shoemaker by trade, and for a number of years he spent the daylight hours in the fields and at night made shoes and boots by the light of a tallow candle. About 1865 he moved into Bluffton, and was a general shoemaker and manufacturer in that city until about 1880, when he traded his shop for a farm in Liberty Township of Wells County, and moving there enjoyed the quiet of a rural atmosphere until his death. He and his wife had eight children, six of whom are still living: Sarah, wife of Jesse Sunier of Bluffton; George, of Wells County, owner of the old homestead; J. H. Reiff; Emma, wife of John Bannings; Lewis of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mollie, widow of Hiram J. Keiser.

J. H. Reiff grew up in Bluffton and in Liberty Township and after his marriage and after he left home he bought eighty acres of land where he now lives in Hartford Township. While farming has been his occupation the greater part of his life he was also in business for a year at Domestic, Indiana, and after selling out went to Wayne County and at Dublin conducted a shoe business a year and from there moved to Geneva, where he established a general store and conducted it for seventeen years, during which time he acquired the acquaintance and the good will of a large part of the citizens in this part of Adams County. He finally sold his mercantile interests and returned to his farm in Hartford Township, where he now owns 120 acres, devoted to high class farming and livestock. He is a breeder of good grades of Duroc hogs, of full-blooded Poll Durham cattle, and has one of the thriftiest and best managed farms in his township.

Mr. Reiff has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs and was formerly a member of the school board of Geneva, and was assigned the task of superintending the construction of the new schoolhouse there, a duty which he discharged with commendable faithfulness and in a way to secure the best results. Mr. Reiff is a democrat and is a member of the Christian Church at Lynn Grove.

He married Mary Alberson, a native of Adams County, Indiana, and they have three sons: Roy, who married Catherine Butler, is a graduate of the Geneva High School and the Fort Wayne Business College, and is now living in Detroit, Michigan, manager of the Fruit Dispatch; Worley, graduate of the Geneva High School and Purdue University, is manager of Myer Brothers Store at Fort Wayne; Kenneth, a graduate of the Petroleum High School and the Muncie Normal, is a teacher and at home with his father.

John C. Houk. A busy and successful career has been that of John C. Houk, for many years a resident and active agriculturist in Root Township, but since September 2, 1908, enjoying the comforts of a good town home at 403 North Seventh Street in Decatur. While he has given over the heavy responsibilities of farming, Mr. Houk is still active in business as a hay dealer and has been a hay merchant widely known throughout this section of Indiana for a quarter of a century. He dealt in hay for a number of years while living on the farm in Root Township. For the past fourteen years he has been a member of the National Association of Hay Dealers and has attended eight conventions of that organization held in some of the larger cities of the country.

Probably nothing has given Mr. Houk so much pleasure and satisfaction as the realization of a long standing ambition to become the absolute and sole owner of his father's old homestead of 236 acres in Root Township. Much of this land was cleared up by his ancestors, is endeared to him and the family by many associations, and Mr. Houk deserves and expects to go back to the farm and there spend his declining years. A part of the land came to the family by direct Government title, the patent being signed by President Van Buren over seventy years ago. It was entered by Houk's maternal grandfather, Samuel Mock, who rode all the way from Hancock County, Ohio, to this then wilderness section, and entered eight quarter sections, for each of his four sons and four daughters.

John C. Houk was born in Root Township May 30, 1859, was reared and educated in that township, and early in life took up the business of tilling the soil, which he followed actively until he removed to Decatur.

Mr. Houk is of old Pennsylvania ancestry. His great-grandparents

were Philip and Catherine Houk, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they spent all their lives. His grandfather, Samuel Houk, was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, in 1775, and died in Lebanon County, that state, in 1830 at the age of fifty-five. He married Catherine Sprecher, who was born in Dauphin County in 1781 and died in Stark County, Ohio, in 1867, at the age of eighty-six. Both she and her husband were devout members of the German Lutheran Church. They went from Pennsylvania to Stark County, Ohio, in early days and saw much of the toil and privation of pioneers.

Benjamin Houk, father of John C., was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, May 28, 1821, and was fourteen years of age when his mother removed to Stark County, Ohio, where he grew up and where he finished his early education. In that county on November 29, 1849, he married Miss Sarah Mock. She was born in Stark County near Massillon, June 1, 1825. Her grandfather, Peter Mock, was a native of Germany and died in Maryland. Her father, Samuel Mock, previously mentioned, was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, June 7, 1787, and moved to Stark County, Ohio, as a pioneer in 1819. He spent most of his life in that section of Ohio. He died in Stark County, Ohio, February 10, 1871, when nearly eighty-four years of age. The maiden name of his wife was Rachel S. Geisaman, a native of Cumberland County, Maryland, and she died at the age of seventy-three. Samuel Mock and wife were exemplary Christians and active members of the United Brethren Church.

After their marriage Benjamin Houk and wife located on their farm in Adams County, where he had located in 1843. This land was in section 5 of Root Township, and his first work on arriving there was to build a log cabin and hire a man to cut away the timber from ten acres. The old log house was subsequently replaced by a hewn log structure, and in the course of time many comforts and conveniences came. Benjamin Houk was well rewarded for this pioneer enterprise and acquired an extensive property of 340 acres. He died at the old homestead March 4, 1888, and his wife passed away on September 6, 1898. Both were leading members of the Lutheran Church and did much to support and upbuild the church and promote every other worthy cause in their community. Benjamin Houk began voting as a whig and afterwards followed the fortunes of the republican party. He and his wife had four children, three of whom are still living. Martha Alice, the first born, died in early infancy. Addison N., born August 22, 1857, has been a farmer and is now living at Fort Wayne; he married Jane Youse and has two daughters, Bertha M. and Frances. Bertha is married and has two sons, D. Houk and John A. John C. of this sketch is next in order of birth. The youngest, Ida Belle, born April 15, 1863, married William Youse, a farmer in Madison Township of Allen County, Indiana. Their children are: Oscar; Eva, who married Lawrence Hartsel and has a son, Warren; Mabel Y., wife of Ralph Friedline; and Georgia.

John C. Houk married in Madison Township of Allen County Miss Mary Ridenour. She was born in that township and locality February 12, 1868, was reared and educated in the common schools, and is a member of an old family of Allen County, daughter of Marcus and Nancy J. (Wallace) Ridenour. Her father was born in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1827, and when a young man walked clear across the country afoot to Illinois. At Raridon in that state he met and married Nancy Jane Wallace,, who was born in Southern Illinois in 1836. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Ahr, on January 1, 1915, lacking only twenty-eight days of her eightieth birth-

day. Mr. and Mrs. Ridenour soon after their marriage moved to section 16, Madison Township, Allen County, Indiana, where the former was engaged in farming until his death in 1902. He was a Methodist before the war and later was an ardent believer in Universalism. His wife was a Lutheran.

Mr. and Mrs. Houk have long been active members of the Lutheran Church and for many years he served as superintendent of the Sunday school in Root Township and was also deacon and elder and member of the Board of Council of the church. In May, 1914, he was sent as a delegate from the Northern Indiana Synod to the General Synod, at Atchison, Kansas. Politically Mr. Houk is a republican.

A brief record of the children who have been born to him and his wife and have grown up in their home follows. The oldest, Benjamin F., died at the age of nineteen while a student in the Decatur High School. Erma M., born January 13, 1896, was educated in the Decatur High School, taught schools three terms, and on June 16, 1917, became the wife of Floyd W. Lewton of Root Township, and Mr. Lewton is now a practical farmer. Mrs. Lewton is a very capable musician and has done much teaching of that art. The next child of Mr. and Mrs. Houk is N. Thelma, who was born August 22, 1899, and married Elmer Gilliom, February 21, 1918. She is a graduate of the Decatur High School, has been a student in the Normal at Angola and has also done some teaching in the rural schools. Mr. and Mrs. Houk are foster parents of Vernon C. Huston, who was born October 15, 1912.

Louis Conrad. Thoroughly skilled in all matters pertaining to the cultivation of the soil, Louis Conrad, of Kirkland Township is numbered among the active and successful agriculturists of Adams County, his well-appointed farm giving substantial evidence of the care and ability with which it is managed. A son of Jacob and Appolonia (Heil) Conrad, he was born, May 16, 1864, in Germany, where he spent his boyhood days. His father was a life-long resident of the fatherland, but his mother, who came to Indiana two years after the death of her husband, died here in 1898. Her daughter, Mary, who came to Indiana with her brother Louis, in 1881, died in 1909.

Brought up and educated in Germany, Louis Conrad determining to seek his fortune in America, came with his sister Mary to the United States in the fall of 1881, arriving in Decatur, Indiana, on Thanksgiving Day, the great national holiday. Following in the footsteps of so many of his thrifty countrymen, he turned his attention to agriculture, and soon after his marriage, in the spring of 1897, settled on the farm he now owns and occupies. By means of industrious and intelligent labor, Mr. Conrad has since cleared and improved a portion of his land, and having placed it under a good state of tillage, is carrying on general farming and stock-raising in a satisfactory manner.

In May, 1897, Mr. Conrad was united in marriage with Sophia Kretzmann, a native of Adams County. Her parents, Frederick and Lizetta Kretzmann, came from Germany to Indiana in pioneer days. Settling in Adams County, they continued residents of the place as long as they lived, Mr. Kretzmann dying in May, 1891, and Mrs. Kretzmann in March, 1915. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Mina, widow of Henry Hildebrand; Mary, wife of William Bracht; Martha, wife of M. Rappert; Susan, wife of H. Blomker; William married C. Beiser; Lewis married C. Schovry; and Mrs. Conrad. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad are the parents of three children, namely: Susan, born in 1900; Walter, born in 1905; and Martha, born in 1907.

There is one child living by Mr. Conrad's first marriage, namely, John, and one child died young. In politics Mr. Conrad is identified with the democratic party. Religiously both Mr. and Mrs. Conrad are members of the Reformed Church at Magley, Indiana, of which he has been a trustee for many years.

ANDREW J. FRENCH. Among the older families of Adams County, those who have been here since pioneer times and developed the country in its material aspects, have built homes, have aided community growth and development, one of the best known is represented by Mr. Andrew J. French, a practical farmer who lives one mile south of Linn Grove.

He was born in French Township, Adams County, November 15, 1866, a son of William and Sarah (Johns) French, and a grandson of that Joseph French for whom this township was named. Joseph French was the first man to locate permanently in the township, and he became a natural leader in the community affairs. William French was born in Dearborn County, Indiana, February 16, 1823, and was twelve years of age when in 1835 the family settled in Adams County. There he grew to manhood, and in Wells County he married Sarah Johns. She was born in Virginia, October 26, 1828, and was ten years of age when in 1838 her parents moved from Virginia to Wells County, Indiana, locating about a mile west of Newville. There her father entered land from the Government, and in the midst of the heavy woods built a log cabin home. He lived there the rest of his life, dying in 1870, and had seen his efforts rewarded by extensive clearings and the development of a good farm. There were seven children in the Johns family, all of whom are now deceased but Mrs. William French. Her sister, Sarah Frances, married George Sheldon. Mary married William Mayo. Virginia became the wife of Andrew Linn. Charlotte's first husband was Lou Sheldon and her second husband, George Sinomison. John S. married Trissie Horton. James never married. Mrs. William French is a member of the First Baptist Church at Bluffton, and at the organization of that church her parents were charter members.

After their marriage William French and wife settled on a farm in Hartford Township and some years later moved to Arkansas, where he died one year later. Mrs. French then returned to Hartford Township and has lived there for thirty-four years. She is the mother of five children: Charlotte, wife of William Miller of Muncie, Indiana; Joseph, deceased; Melissa, unmarried and now a teacher in the Linn Grove schools; J. D. French, a teacher in the Petroleum schools of Wells County; and Andrew J.

Andrew J. French grew up in Hartford Township and received his education at Linn Grove. At the age of seventeen he gave up his books and studies to busy himself with farming, and for some years he was also engaged in the operation of a sawmill. His activities are now confined to the operation of a good forty-acre farm, where he is handling the staple crops of this section and raises considerable stock. Mr. French is a past noble grand of Linn Grove Lodge No. 683 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics is a democrat.

ERNEST ISCH is engaged in his pleasant and remunerative occupation on one of the best and most attractive farms of French Township, his farm being under a good state of tillage, with improvements of a substantial character, all bearing visible evidence of the thrift and business ability of the owner. He was born in 1871, in Illinois, of Swiss ancestry.

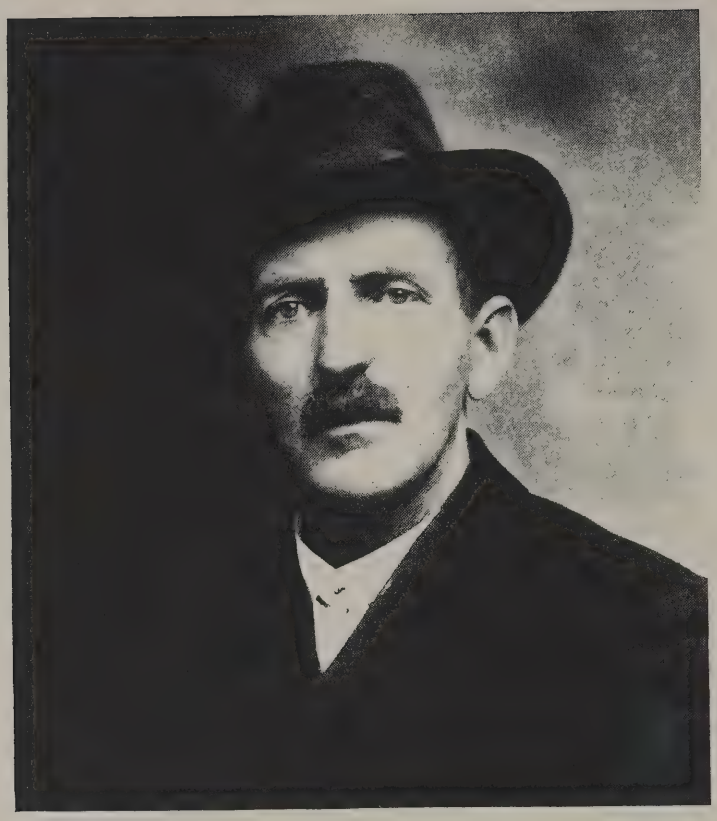
His father, the late Jacob Isch, was born and educated in Switzerland, and there married a Swiss lassie, Mary Shaller. Soon after that event, he came with his wife to the United States, the land of hope and promise. Poor in pocket, but industrious and ambitious, he began life in his adopted country in Illinois. He subsequently bought 120 acres of land in the vicinity of Peoria, Illinois, and lived there a few years. Disposing of that land, he came with his family to Adams County, Indiana, and having purchased 500 acres of land in French Township continued his agricultural labors with good results, living on his farm during the remainder of his life. To him and his wife six children were born, as follows: Alfred, who is farming in French Township; Ernest, of whom we write; Fred, living on the parental homestead; Lizzie; Joe R., a farmer in French Township; and John of Bluffton. These children are extensive landholders, having title to 960 acres of good land, among other pieces of land owning the whole of section 12, French Township.

Brought up in Illinois, Ernest Isch obtained a practical education in the public schools, and while yet a boy was initiated into the mysteries of agriculture. Coming with the family to French Township, he has since continued in the calling to which he was reared, and for which he is well adapted by training and experience. Mr. Isch has 280 acres of land, and in its management is meeting with exceptionally good results, his farm being well improved, and amply supplied with all the accessories of a first-class estate, the farm buildings being substantial, and the house furnished with all modern conveniences. In addition to carrying on general farming, Mr. Isch has built up a large and profitable business in the buying and feeding of hogs for the market, and also as a buyer and shipper of horses.

Mr. Isch married Alice Meiss, and they have a family consisting of nine children, namely: Sophia, Ella, Bertha, Joseph, Clara, Elmer, Amelia, Harold, and Dorothy. Politically Mr. Isch is a republican, and religiously both he and his wife are members of the Christian Apostolic Church in Harrison Township, Wells County.

Burt Mangold, D. D. S. The dental surgeons of Adams County are represented perhaps by as fine a body of men as can be gathered anywhere in the profession in the country. They have taken the exhaustive course which has reduced the care, preservation and restoration of teeth, and the treatment of the various disorders attendant upon them, to an exact science. Among those who have built up a large practice and firmly established themselves in the confidence of the people of the community is Burt Mangold, D. D. S., who since 1905 has been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession at Decatur.

Doctor Mangold is a product of Decatur, having been born in that city August 18, 1883, a son of Noah and Rachael (Weldy) Mangold. His maternal grandfather, Daniel Weldy, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and at an early date came with his wife to Adams County, Indiana, locating on a farm in Kirkland Township, where they passed the remaining years of their lives. Mrs. Weldy died many years ago, but Mr. Weldy survived until September 15, 1915, having attained the remarkable age of ninety-two years. He was a democrat in politics, was prominent in his community, and at one time served in the capacity of county commissioner. Fraternally, he was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Noah Mangold was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 22, 1853, and as a lad of ten years came to Adams County, Indiana, with his parents, Abraham Mangold and wife. The family made a settlement in Preble Township, where, on a farm the



DAVID L. REYNOLDS

DAVID L. REYNOLDS RESIDENCE

grandparents passed the remainder of their lives, dying when past eighty years of age. They were members of the German Reformed Church, and Mr. Mangold, who was well known and influential in his community, was justice of the peace during a long period. After their marriage, Noah Mangold and his wife located at Decatur, where Mr. Mangold engaged in the butter and egg business. Subsequently he was in the hardware business, then became a dealer in horses, was for four years county auditor of Adams County, and then became proprietor of a racket store. For the past six years he has represented the National Mill Supply Company of Fort Wayne, but makes his headquarters and home at Decatur. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mangold are well and favorably known here and have numerous friends who have been attracted to them by their many excellencies of heart and mind. Mr. Mangold is a democrat and has been quite active in local politics. Mrs. Mangold belongs to the Christian Church. They are the parents of the following children: Burt; Arthur, a member of the firm of Mangold & Baker, grocers of Decatur, is married and has a daughter, Helen; Ireta, who died at the age of six years; and Glen, a graduate of the Decatur High School, class of 1914, is cashier of the Fisher-Harris Grocery.

Burt Mangold grew up at Decatur, where he attended the grammar and high schools, and, having early made his choice of profession, was graduated from the Indiana Dental College, Indianapolis, in 1905, before he was twenty-two years of age. Returning at once to Decatur, he began his practice, and now has a large and representative practice. He is a most excellent practitioner, skilled, conscientious and progressive, and from the very first has prospered. He has gained the full confidence of the people, not only as a professional man, but as a good citizen. Keeping fully abreast of his profession, he belongs to the Indiana State Dental Association, and the Northern Indiana Dental Society, and also holds membership in the National Preparedness League, a charitable organization, as a member of which he does dental work for the needy soldiers without charge. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, the American Yeomen, the Knights of Maccabees, the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a democrat, but his profession has demanded his time and he has found no leisure for participation in politics. In all progressive movements he has taken a creditable part and his good citizenship has never been doubted. Doctor Mangold and his wife are members of the Christian Church, in which he is serving as a member of the board of trustees and financial secretary.

Doctor Mangold was married at Monroe, Adams County, to Miss Nora Andrews, who was born in Washington Township, Adams County, June 11, 1887. She grew up and was educated there and later at Marion, and prior to her marriage was a teacher for several years. Doctor and Mrs. Mangold have no children.

David L. Reynolds has been a practical man in real estate affairs ever since attaining his majority. He has been connected with some of the largest deals not only in Wells County but in various other sections of Northern Indiana. His headquarters for a number of years have been at Bluffton. Mr. Reynolds is also thoroughly a farmer, and owns and operates some fine property in his home county, in Liberty Township.

Mr. Reynolds was born at Amboy in Miami County, Indiana, in 1866, a son of Louis and Susannah Reynolds. His father, who was born in Wayne County, Indiana, December 22, 1843, removed to Miami County in 1851, came to manhood there and married, and that county

was his home until 1879. In that year he located six miles south of Marion near Bethel, and for a number of years was engaged in the manufacture of tile. On retiring from that business he looked after his farm near Weaver. His death had as its immediate cause a wound which he received while defending his country during the Civil war. In the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, on August 30, 1862, he was wounded in the left lung and he carried the bullet to his dying day. He possessed remarkable vigor, and withstood the ravages of his wound for fifty-five years. He died in 1917. His military service was given as a member of Company F of the Sixteenth Indiana Infantry. His children are: D. L. Reynolds of Bluffton; Vestal of Marion; and Delia, Edith and Goldie.

D. L. Reynolds grew up on a farm, had a common school education, and at the age of twenty-one located in Converse, where he had his first experience as a real estate man. That work he has continued with growing ability and experience ever since. On coming to Wells County he located on a farm near Ossian and later bought a place in Liberty Township near the Smoky River Church. There he has 160 acres of some of the best land in the county, and is making it produce some of the crops which keep Wells County well to the front in the matter of agricultural production. He also has some other valuable pieces of land in Wells County. As a real estate man he conducts an office in the McFarren Block in Bluffton. He deals in general real estate, loans money, and is one of the most reliable men in his line in the county. Politically he is a republican and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Howard W. Thompson. During a residence in Washington Township of Adams County more than thirty years, Howard W. Thompson proved his usefulness and capability as a practical farmer and a citizen who could be depended upon in every one of life's relationships. While he came to this county after the Civil war and when much of the pioneer work had been done, his own part was not without many of the experiences and hardships of the earlier settlers. He and his wife lived at first in the midst of the brush and woods, and their joint labors enabled them to make a home and gradually acquire the prosperity which was their portion in his later years and which Mrs. Thompson now enjoys in her comfortable surroundings at Decatur.

Mr. Thompson was born in Carroll County, Ohio, February 4, 1837, a son of Gabriel D. and Elizabeth Thompson. His grandfather was Zachariah Thompson. Both were natives of the eastern states, and Gabriel was born in Hartford County, Maryland, and his wife in Otsego, New York. They married in New York and became pioneers of Carroll County, where Zachariah Thompson and wife also spent their last years. Gabriel Thompson married Elizabeth Allen and they then settled down as farmers in Carroll County, where she died at the age of sixty-two. They were very strict and faithful members of the Disciples Church. Gabriel Thompson married a second wife and both lived in Carroll County. His first wife died in August, 1868, and her eight children were named Gilbert, Lydia A., Antoinette, Howard W., Harvey L., Bathsheba, Sarah A. and Joseph W.

Howard W. Thompson grew up in his native county, had a common school education, and at the age of sixteen began learning the blacksmith's trade, an occupation he followed about five years, though the greater part of his life was spent as a farmer. On April 9, 1865, in Carroll County he married Miss Catherine Kirby. She was born in that county March 21, 1844, daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Bear)

Kirby, both natives of Pennsylvania, and of old Pennsylvania stock. The Kirby family were early settlers in Carroll County, and Ephraim and his wife spent all the years of their married life on one farm and in one house. In this home after more than forty years of companionship they passed away, he at the age of eighty-two and she at seventy-nine. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Ephraim Kirby was a very positive democrat in his political convictions and did much to maintain the party organization in his locality. They had eleven children, three of whom died young, and eight grew up and married. Mrs. Thompson has three living brothers: Van Buren, Capt. Walter and Jacob J., all of whom are married and have children. Capt. Walter Kirby made a splendid record as a soldier of the Union, being captain of a company in the Eightieth Ohio Infantry.

In the spring of 1868 Mr. Thompson brought his wife and their only child to Adams County and from that time forward was a resident of Washington Township. He acquired 100 acres of wild land in section 34, and for several years they lived in a log cabin, surrounded with brush which gradually gave way to cultivated fields, and the improvements were all in place, crops had been gathered regularly every season for many years, and the farm was a valuable property when Mr. Thompson was called away by death on May 21, 1901, at the age of sixty-five. He was a democrat in his political faith and a member of the Christian Church. In every sense he was a progressive man in his community and had the complete esteem and confidence of his neighbors and friends. Eighteen months after his death Mrs. Thompson removed to Decatur, and now enjoys the comforts of a beautiful home at 333 North First Street. One of her daughters lives with her and both are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson: Elizabeth, born May 2, 1867, now the wife of James Hendricks, mention of whom is made on other pages. Frances E., born January 13, 1869, was a successful teacher for ten years and is now employed as a stenographer in Canada. Cranston A., born September 17, 1871, is a railway conductor living at Aurora, Nebraska, and has a son, Donald. Maude M., born June 27, 1879, is the wife of William Dorwin, a mail carrier at Decatur, and they have three children, M. Catherine, aged twelve; Dean, aged ten; and Helen, aged eight, all of them in school. Ephraim Kirby Thompson, the youngest child, was born December 25, 1881, and is now a railroad operator at Van Wert, Ohio. He is married and his two children are Frances, aged nine, and Richard, aged seven.

William A. Lower, since the opening of the People's Loan & Trust Company of Decatur on January 1, 1915, has held the post of secretary and director. He is thus actively identified with what is now one of the principal financial concerns of Adams County. A more complete account of this company, which was founded under the trust laws of Indiana, is written on other pages of this publication.

Mr. Lower was formerly postmaster of Decatur, being appointed by President Taft on June 13, 1910. He held that office and administered its affairs most capably and to the satisfaction of all concerned four years. Before retiring from the postoffice he was in the general insurance business, representing several life insurance companies and his bank now has an insurance department and his experience enables him to give this branch of the company valuable support.

In 1889 Mr. Lower was appointed assistant state superintendent of public instruction under Frank L. Jones. He was a prominent educator before entering business life, having taught school in the county

for nine years, four years in the schools of Decatur as principal of a ward school and five years in the country district.

Mr. Lower acquired a liberal education but largely through his own efforts and earnings, attending school in the intervals of his teaching. He was a student in the Decatur High School in the Tri-State Normal at Angola, and a graduate of the Indianapolis Business University.

Mr. Lower was born in Adams County January 26, 1872, and grew up on his father's farm. He is a son of Joseph S. and Rebecca (Congleton) Lower, both natives of Ohio, his father having been born in Tuscarawas County. Both came to Adams County with their parents when young people and were married in Union Township, where they spent their active lives as farmers. The father died on the old farm in December, 1915. He was a son of Rev. William and Catherine (Mumma) Lower, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. In pioneer times they came to Adams County and established a home on new land in Union Township, where both died when quite old. Rev. William Lower was a United Brethren preacher and as a pioneer carried the gospel all over this section of the country, riding horseback for the most part. He was a greatly beloved character in the early days, not only among his own church people but among all classes. In politics he was a democrat, though later generations of the family have followed the fortunes of the republican party.

The mother of William A. Lower came with her parents to Adams County when she was quite young, and the family settled in Root Township, where her father cleared up a tract of land and made a good home. Both her parents died here. They were members of the United Brethren Church.

Since the death of Joseph S. Lower in 1915, his widow has lived in Decatur and is vigorous and well at the age of seventy-three. She is active as a member of the United Brethren Church. Her husband was very prominent in the republican party, served as a member of the township and city committees, and several times consented to become a candidate on the minority party ticket. Mr. William A. Lower has a sister, Nora, wife of H. F. Linn, a general contractor and a member of the city council of Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Linn have three children, Joseph S., William S. and Lawrence. There is also a brother, Homer D., who conducts a 5 and 10 cent store at Warren, Indiana. He married Ada Archbold, and has three children, Helen, Joseph S. and Francis.

William A. Lower married in Decatur Dora L. Peterson, who was born in Decatur and finished her education in the State Normal School at Terre Haute and for several years was a successful teacher before her marriage. Mrs. Lower is member of a prominent old family of Adams County and a sister of Mrs. John H. Heller. Mr. Lower is a past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and a member of the Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias of Indiana.

William H. Settle. One of the foremost farmers and stock breeders of Wells County, William H. Settle, proprietor of the Phoenix Stock Farm, Nottingham Township, has acquired far more than statewide fame as a breeder of fancy stock, his Chester White hogs, which he has shown in several states, having invariably been named as prize winners in every contest. A son of Winfred S. and Elizabeth (Aberson) Settle, he was born on the parental homestead, March 17, 1872, being the first-born son of the household.

As a boy and youth, William H. Settle attended the winter terms of the district school, working during seed time and harvest on the home farm. Beginning life for himself at the age of twenty years, he worked

in the oil fields for six years, being at the same time interested to some extent in farming. Retiring from that industry, Mr. Settle was for a time engaged in the livery business at Montpelier, Indiana. Locating then in Nottingham Township, about half a mile south of Phoenix, he has since been prosperously engaged in the management of his present estate, the Phoenix Stock Farm, which consists of 100 acres of choice land. In addition to general farming, Mr. Settle is greatly interested in the breeding and raising of stock, in 1898 having embarked in that branch of agriculture as a breeder of pure-blooded Chester White hogs. Beginning on a modest scale, he has each year enlarged his operations, his sales of that breed of hogs for 1917 averaging higher than that of any other breeder in the state, if not in the entire country. Mr. Settle has at the head of his magnificent herd Petroleum Grant, No. 37115, who has won the grand championship six times, his dam being Bloom I, the grand champion sow, which has never yet been defeated. Mr. Settle has exhibited his hogs in seven states, and has won more prizes in the last two years than any other breeder of fancy hogs in the United States. In the state contest for Indiana boys and girls, Mr. Settle's sons won first and second prizes, his second son, Huber showing his pig in class won over all the old breeders of the state, winning the silver cup.

Mr. Settle married, April 2, 1893, Eva J. Lockwood. She was born and reared in Nottingham Township, a daughter of Stanley and Maggie Lockwood. Seven children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Settle, three of whom died in infancy, and four are living, namely: Iva L., who completed her studies in Indianapolis, and subsequently taught music, is now the wife of Homer Gehrett; Arthur Mc., a graduate of the Fort Wayne Business College, is now in the Oklahoma oil fields; Hubert, an eighth grade pupil in the public schools; and Earl, a schoolboy. Mr. Settle is one of the stockholders of the State Bank of Keystone, Indiana. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Settle are both active members of the United Brethren Church at Phoenix, and for thirteen years Mr. Settle was superintendent of its Sunday school, the school having been organized by his father many years ago. Fraternally Mr. Settle is a member of Petroleum Lodge No. 721, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Fred E. Kolter. Energetic, industrious, and thrifty, Fred E. Kolter of Magley is meeting with satisfactory success as a general merchant, and holds high rank among the prosperous business men of his community, being esteemed and respected as a man of integrity and worth. A native of Adams County, he was born, July 12, 1885, in Preble Township, a son of Cane and Mary Kolter, neither of whom are now living.

Born in Germany, Cane Kolter came to the United States when young, and being industrious worked at anything he could find to do. Prudent in his expenditures, and wise in his savings, he accumulated some money, and after his marriage rented a farm in Preble Township. A few years later, having previously learned the mason's trade, he engaged in business as a stone mason and plasterer, selling off his livestock and agricultural implements in order to capitalize his new venture. He was very successful in his undertakings, and continued in business until his death, ten years later, in 1913. To him and his wife, who was a native of this country, seven children were born, namely: Edward; Anna; John, deceased; Adolph; Ralph; Freda; and Fred E.

Fred E. Kolter acquired his education in his native township, attending the parochial and public schools. In 1914, in partnership with

his brother, Edward, he embarked in the mercantile business at Magley, and as a general merchant met with encouraging success from the start. Buying his brother's interest in the store in 1915, Mr. Kolter has since conducted the business alone. An industrious, hard-working and capable young man, attending strictly to his own affairs, Mr. Kolter has built up a very prosperous trade in his neighborhood, being popular with young and old, and having the confidence of the entire community. He buys, and exchanges merchandise, for farm produce, always paying the highest market prices, and in the delivery of goods uses a motor truck.

Mr. Kolter married, June 22, 1909, Hulda Fruahte. She was born in Preble Township, a daughter of Henry and Caroline Frauhte, who reared four other children, Albert, Manda, Franklin, and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Kolter are members of the German Reformed Church, as were their parents. In politics Mr. Kolter is a steadfast adherent of the democratic party. Fraternally he is a member of Tocsin Lodge No. 1458, Modern Woodmen of America.

Joseph V. Pease. For many years actively engaged in the prosecution of a calling upon which not only our nation, but upon which the world largely depends, Joseph V. Pease has met with deserved success in his undertakings, and holds a position of importance among the leading farmers of Kirkland Township. He was born, August 27, 1866, in Adams County, Indiana, a son of Elijah Pease, and grandson of Adam and Barbara (Winters) Pease, natives of New Jersey.

Elijah Pease, through whose veins flowed pure Indian blood, was born, August 1, 1836, in Ohio, from whence he migrated to Indiana. After his marriage, in 1861, he settled in Adams County, on section 33. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land, and having cleared an opening in the forest built the customary log cabin, in which he and his bride began housekeeping, and in which all of their children were born. He labored with true pioneer grit and courage, and in due course of time had a well improved and well equipped farm. He married Mary V. Walter, who was born, in 1841, in Berne, Switzerland, and as a child came to America with her parents, John Adam and Mary Anna (Jacqueimai) Walter. To her and her husband six children have been born, namely: Alva, deceased; John A.; Mary Lillian and Joseph V., twins; Cecil, deceased; and Dora. Both parents are living, and are in comparatively good health for people of their age.

Leaving school at the age of twelve years to assist his father on the farm, Joseph V. Pease gained agricultural knowledge and experience that has been of the utmost value to him in his life work. Soon after his marriage he located in French Township, Adams County, where for two years he had charge of the farm of his father-in-law, Samuel Hocker. Returning to Kirkland Township, he managed the parental homestead for three years, being quite successful in his operations. In 1901 Mr. Pease bought, in section 33, Kirkland Township, the eighty-acre farm which he recently sold at an advantage, and has since purchased a farm in Adams County, and another in Wells County, one containing eighty acres, and the other seventy-seven acres. In the management of his farms he is meeting with gratifying results, his land being fertile, and well adapted to the production of the cereals common to this part of the state. He has eighty acres in his home.

The maiden name of the wife of Mr. Pease was Mary V. Hocker. She was born in French Township, Adams County, Indiana, a daughter of Samuel Hocker, who owns and occupies a farm of eighty acres in French Township, where he is now living. Mr. Hocker married Rachel

Cline, who spent her entire life in Indiana, dying on the home farm in 1895. She was the mother of two children, Lucinda, and Mrs. Pease. Five children have brightened the union of Mr. and Mrs. Pease, namely: Carl H., born April 21, 1896; Walter E., born January 5, 1898; Lester R., born July 1, 1900; Luzerne E., born July 4, 1903; and Paul M., born May 4, 1913. Politically a prohibitionist, Mr. Pease is actively interested in the work of his party. Religiously he and wife are members of the Christian Union Church, in which he has held important offices. He is a public-spirited, loyal citizen, and has served ably as trustee of Kirkland Township, filling the office for four years.

Daniel J. C. Scherry of Kirkland Township is actively and prosperously associated with the development and advancement of the agricultural interests of Adams County, of which he is a native, his birth having occurred March 8, 1875, in Preble Township.

His father, Christian Scherry, Jr., was born in Germany, but at the age of eleven weeks was brought by his parents to the United States. He grew to manhood in Adams County, Indiana, and having located in Preble Township purchased ninety acres of land that was still in its virginal wildness, and having cleared a space erected a log cabin for himself and his young wife. With true pioneer courage, he began the improvement of a homestead, and as a farmer met with gratifying results. At the age of twenty-six years he married Susan Bryner, who was born in Pennsylvania on August 20, 1856, and was then a bright and capable girl of sixteen years. Seven children blessed their union, namely: Anna; Daniel J. C.; Henry; Edward; John; Otto, pastor of the Reformed Church at Garrett, Indiana, near Fort Wayne; and Charles.

Daniel J. C. Scherry married, September 4, 1900, Lydia Reppert, a daughter of Jacob and Minnie (Peck) Reppert. She was born in Preble Township, Adams County, which was likewise the birthplace of her sister, Annie, and of her two brothers, Albert, and Oswald, now deceased. Politically Mr. Scherry is a stanch supporter of the principles of the democratic party.

George Martin. The proprietor of a well-kept and well-managed estate in Adams County, George Martin is a member of the agricultural community of Kirkland Township, and during the thirty-five and more years that he has resided in this locality has been an important factor in developing and advancing its highest interests. A native of Ohio, he was born, March 27, 1859, in Ottawa County, of German ancestry.

His parents, Christ and Christina (Schafhauser) Martin, were born, bred, and married in Baden, Germany. In 1854, soon after the birth of their first child, Rachel, they immigrated to this country, locating in Ottawa County, Ohio, where they spent their remaining days. The father died in 1868, and the mother in 1878. Both were buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, in Sandusky, Ohio. They reared three children, namely: Rachel, deceased; George, of this sketch; and Robert, deceased.

Completing his early studies in the common schools, George Martin, as soon as old enough to wield an axe or hoe, began his career as a farmer. Desirous of enlarging his operations, he made his way to Adams County, Indiana, and on March 1, 1882, assumed possession of eighty acres of his present farm in Kirkland Township. By diligent and persistent labor, Mr. Martin cleared and improved his land, and subsequently invested his savings in another eighty-acre tract of land, which, after cultivating for a quarter of a century, he sold at an advantage.

Mr. Martin then purchased, in 1903, ninety-five acres of good land in Washington Township, and three years later, in 1906, bought another eighty acres in Kirkland Township. The greater portion of these farms, Mr. Martin has cleared and improved, his property now ranking among the most valuable and attractive in the place.

Mr. Martin married Lena B. Benedict, a daughter of Christian and Christiana Benedict, who were born in Germany, and on coming to this country settled in Ottawa County, Ohio, where her father is still living, and where the death of her mother occurred June 27, 1909. She has one brother, Lewis Benedict. Six children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Martin, namely: Cora Christina, wife of Frank Yager of Wells County, Indiana; Frank Oscar, who married Sarah Arnold, has ten children, Mabel Maria, Ruth, Bryce, Harold, Ralph, Margaret, Charles, Robert, Roy and Helen; William Benjamin married Ada Johnson, and they have three children, Francilla, Glenn and Marcia; George Earl married Lucy Amspaugh of Kirkland Township and they have three children, Mildred, Virgil, and Lucille; Ina Mary, wife of Edwin Miller, has four children, Magdaline, Louise, Virginia, and Ruth; and Harry Victor, single. Mr. Martin is a public-spirited citizen, ever mindful of the interests of his community, and as a stanch democrat in politics does his duty at the polls.

George E. Wemhoff. Possessing excellent business ability and judgment, George E. Wemhoff, of Decatur, general manager of the Wemhoff Monumental Works, is widely known throughout Western Indiana for his monumental achievements, beautiful marble and granite creations from his shop being seen in many of the best known cemeteries of this section of the state. A native of Adams County, he was born, in 1873, in Decatur, being a son of the late Bernard F. Wemhoff.

Bernard F. Wemhoff was born at Munster, Westphalia, in November, 1843, and died at his home, in Decatur, Indiana, June 12, 1906. Brought up in his native land, he learned the trade of a marble cutter when young, and afterward worked for three years on that magnificent work of art, the Cologne Cathedral. Immigrating to the United States just before the close of the Civil war, he located first in Kendallville, Indiana, there joining his brother, Rev. John A. Wemhoff, a Roman Catholic priest, who, in 1873, was instrumental in laying the foundation for the present Roman Catholic Church of Decatur. From Kendallville Bernard F. Wemhoff went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and later, with others, became interested in establishing monumental works in the newly organized town of Decatur, and in this now flourishing city, in 1889, he established the Wemhoff Monumental Works, going into business on his own account, after having been associated with partners for many years. He met with excellent success from the first, the many beautiful monuments that he erected in the cemeteries of this vicinity bearing evidence of his skillful workmanship.

Bernard F. Wemhoff married, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mary A. McClean, who was born in America, of Irish parents. She is now living, a bright and active woman of four score years. Both she and her husband are members of the Roman Catholic Church, and after locating in Decatur became identified with Saint Mary's Church. Mr. Wemhoff became an active member of the Knights of Columbus. Eight children were born of their union, as follows: George E., of this sketch; Edith, wife of Charles Pilliod, of Ohio, has three daughters; Oswald, of Decatur, travels in the interest of the Wemhoff Monumental Works; Estella, a most capable business woman, is secretary for a lumber company, in which she is a stockholder, at Fort Wayne; Frank, a resident

of San Francisco, California, is the western manager of the Wayne Oil, Tank & Pump Company; Otto, traveling salesman for the local Monumental Works; Celesta, a graduate of the Fort Wayne Business College, is with the Bowers Realty Company, of Decatur; John R., of Fort Wayne, an accountant for the Wayne Oil, Tank and Pump Company.

Brought up in Decatur, George E. Wemhoff, in common with his brothers and sisters, received his early education in the parochial schools, and as a boy began working in his father's marble works, becoming familiar with the details of the business. Since the death of his father, eleven years ago, Mr. Wemhoff has been general manager of the Wemhoff Monumental Works, and under his careful supervision the business is large and constantly increasing, having within recent years reached such proportions that a branch office was opened at Fort Wayne, in the Bass Block. This enterprising firm has filled many large orders, among others having erected the W. E. Mossman Monument in Fort Wayne, it being very tall and handsome; the beautiful statue erected to the memory of William Niblick, of Decatur; a similar piece of statuary erected in Saint Johns Cemetery, at Fort Wayne; and at Decatur a soldiers' monument of rare artistic beauty, designed by Charles Mulligan, a noted Chicago sculptor.

As an ex-president of the National Monumental Association, and the assistant editor of its great trade magazine, Mr. Wemhoff has met many artists, sculptors, and draftsmen of note, all of whom look upon him as a true friend. Mr. Wemhoff has among his most valued heirlooms an old German bull's eye watch, once owned by his paternal grandfather, and which, from its markings is known to be far more than a century old.

Mr. Wemhoff married, in Decatur, Indiana, Osa France, a daughter of Henry France, an ex-county auditor, now deceased. Mrs. Wemhoff was born and educated in Decatur, and has always been active and prominent in social circles. Five children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wemhoff, namely: Adrian, bookkeeper for the Alfo Company, in Decatur; Eulalia, Robert, Arthur, and Bernard. The family are all members of the Roman Catholic Church. In his political affiliations Mr. Wemhoff is a democrat.

Horace E. Butler. One of the fine homestead farms of Root Township is owned and occupied by Horace E. Butler, whose place in the agricultural history of Adams County is not difficult to define, since he has been at once successful and thoroughly progressive and alive as a public spirited citizen to all the needs and demands placed upon him in community affairs.

Mr. Butler was born in Adams County September 10, 1870, son of Jesse and Catherine (Earhart) Butler. His father was a native of Wayne County, Indiana, and his mother of Pennsylvania, and after their marriage they lived for a time on a farm in Wayne County, then pioneered to western Iowa and settled in Page County, and after developing a farm there traded it and all its improvements for 200 acres of land in Adams County, Indiana. Jesse Butler was one of the prominent farmer citizens of Adams County, was well known as a stock dealer in later years, was an exceptionally diligent worker and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and his name everywhere is spoken with the respect it deserves. He and his wife had children named: Mary, Edna, Albert, Benj. F., William, John, Samuel, Melvin J. and Horace E.

Horace E. Butler was educated in the common schools of Root Township and has made farming his chief business throughout his active

career. In 1914 he located on his present place of 140 acres, and here has the facilities, the soil and the individual experience necessary for growing bountiful crops of all kinds. Mr. Butler is a republican voter, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

September 10, 1892, he married Miss Ella O. Fisher, daughter of William and Sarah Fisher. Mrs. Butler has brothers named Daniel, Lemuel, Jonas and Amos and one sister named Mary. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Butler are Velma, Clyde and Naomi. The daughter Velma is now the wife of Giles Porter of Adams County and they have one daughter, Vera.

H. Henry Bremerkamp. Through a long and honorable business career, participation in enterprises that have brought added prestige to the city if his birth, straightforward dealing in all the avenues of life, and citizenship of a high order, H. Henry Bremerkamp has come to be justly accounted one of the foremost citizens of Decatur. The success which he has attained in life has been of his own making, for he was given few advantages in his youth and has had to work out his own problems without assistance. As president of the Fornax Milling Company he is the directing head of one of the important enterprises of Decatur, and when he took this position at the organization of the company, in November, 1915, it came as a climax to a long career passed in the milling business.

Mr. Bremerkamp was born near the City Court House, on West Madison Street, Decatur, December 31, 1853, a son of John Henry and Magdalena (Hartman) Bremerkamp, the former born in Westphalia and the latter in Hildesheim, Germany. John Henry Bremerkamp was a tailor in his native land, and after coming to the United States followed that occupation at Cincinnati, but after the epidemic of cholera came to Decatur, where he became the owner of a general store. He died here in 1869, aged sixty-eight years, while Mrs. Bremerkamp survived until 1913 and was ninety years old at the time of her death. By her first marriage she had two children, one of them, Mrs. Fullenkamp, a widow, is engaged in the dry goods business at Decatur. By her last marriage she had three children: H. Henry; Mrs. Magdalena Dinniger, a milliner of Decatur; and Mrs. E. X. Echinger, cashier of the old Adams County Bank.

Henry H. Bremerkamp received only limited educational advantages in his youth, for from the time he was nine years of age he was expected to serve as clerk behind the counter in the store of his father, who died when he was thirteen years old. He was ambitious and industrious, however, and often studied late into the night, educating himself and training himself in business methods, so that at his father's death he was able to take charge of the business and to keep its books in good order. Mr. Bremerkamp remained as a merchant until 1885, and then interested himself in the milling business. In 1888 he became connected with what is known as the South Mill of the Fornax Milling Company first as a member of the firm controlling its operation, in partnership with two different members, and after several years becoming sole proprietor by purchase. During the years that followed he strengthened his position in the milling industry in various ways, and in November, 1915, became one of the prime movers in the organization of the Fornax Milling Company, when he was made president; Clarence G. Strickler, vice president, and Herman Gillig, secretary and treasurer, all active in the business, and all well known residents of Decatur. This concern manufactures the famous Golden Dove, Bob

White and Blue Ribbon brands of flour, which have an extensive market in Ohio and Indiana, and kiln dried cornmeal and feedstuffs. The mills are known as Nos. 1 and 2, or the North and South Mills. The latter was a milling plant more than sixty years ago and has always been known as the Fornax Mills. The first mill was built four blocks below the present one on the St. Mary's River. The present South Mill was burned out in 1905, but was rebuilt the same year with modern machinery and equipment, including roller and precipitation and the universal bolting system, and since its installation the South Mill has a capacity of eighty barrels daily and the North Mill ninety barrels. Messrs. Gillig and Strickler are practical millers and have been for the past fifteen years. Recently another partner was admitted to the business, he being George Shosenburg, a local resident and a farmer near Salem. In business circles Mr. Bremerkamp is considered a man of shrewd judgment and foresight, a man whose integrity is unquestioned, and who has a high ideal of business principles.

Mr. Bremerkamp was married at Decatur, Indiana, to Miss Barbara Kleber, who was born in that city, in 1857, and there reared and educated. She grew up in a Roman Catholic German family, early settlers of Fort Wayne, and her father, Christoph Kleber, died in that city. Her mother, Mrs. Barbara Kleber, died at the home of her daughter at Decatur. To Mr. and Mrs. Bremerkamp there have been born the following children: Anselm, of Decatur, who married Miss Blosson and has two children, Margaret and Helen; Otto, who is single and lives at Dayton; Raymond, a photographer of Fort Wayne, who married Clara Minch and has a daughter, Gretchen; Stella, who is the wife of A. W. Cron, a resident of Little Rock, Arkansas, and a photographer by vocation, and has two children, William and Barbara; Clarence, at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Earl, who is single and resides at home; and Eugene, a volunteer in the United States army, who is now in training as an electrician at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The members of the family all belong to St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Mr. Bremerkamp and two of his sons belong to the Knights of Columbus. They are democrats in their political allegiance.

Orley L. Lancaster.* An interesting and profitable feature of the modern, up-to-date farm is the breeding of pure blooded stock and along this line as others Orley L. Lancaster, one of Chester Township's well known agriculturists, has met with much success. Mr. Lancaster is an intelligent, college-bred man, who carries on his farm industries scientifically, and the results prove that his agricultural knowledge is sound and his methods reliable.

Orley L. Lancaster was born on a farm in Chester Township, Wells County, Indiana, May 5, 1880, and is the youngest of a family of seven children born to Nathan and Mary (Starr) Lancaster. His father was born in Van Buren Township, Grant County, Indiana, October 25, 1836, and his mother in Wells County, Indiana, February 5, 1847. The father died October 27, 1909. The mother is living and resides in Chester Township where the home was established many years ago. Mrs. Lancaster is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church as was her husband.

Orley L. Lancaster was reared on the old Lancaster farm that lies one half mile south of Keystone, Indiana. In boyhood he attended the Chester Township schools and then entered the Keystone High School, from which he was creditably graduated. In 1902 he entered the Indiana State University, in which institution he remained a student for over two years, at the end of his university course being elected

principal of the Keystone High School. Mr. Lancaster was entirely successful in the educational field, but scientific agriculture interested him to a greater degree and after he married this work claimed his entire attention. His farm of eighty acres has been brought to a high state of cultivation, through his knowledge of selection and adaptation of crops to soil, and his use of economic methods never thought-of in old days, and also the introduction of labor and crop saving modern machinery. On his farm only high grade stock is produced and many fine hogs are raised, while his pure blooded cattle are a source of large income. Mr. Lancaster enjoys his work and all his experiments that add zest to it are governed by the good judgment that make failure practically impossible.

Mr. Lancaster was married in 1906 to Miss Chloe Roll, who was born, reared and educated in Blackford County, Indiana, and prior to her marriage was a successful and popular teacher in that county. They have a wide circle of friends and enjoy life and the hospitality of their beautiful home is known to many.

While Mr. Lancaster has never been a politician in any sense, as an intelligent and educated man he is keenly alert to public conditions at home and abroad and as far as his personal influence extends endeavors to be a model citizen. He is a great advocate of good roads, and he votes with the republican party. For a number of years he has been a member of Montpelier Lodge No. 60, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and at times has been interested in agricultural organizations.

Henry Gilliom has long been a factor in business affairs at Bluffton and is a member of the firm Gilliom Brothers, well drillers, who have handled contracts in that line all over Northeastern Indiana.

Mr. Gilliom was born on a farm in Adams County, Indiana, December 25, 1879, a son of Isaac and Melvina (Hanna) Gilliom. Both parents are now deceased. The father was a native of the United States and the mother of Switzerland. They spent their active years on a farm in Adams County.

Henry Gilliom grew up on the farm and remained at home in Adams County until he was twenty years of age. His education was acquired by attendance at the district schools. He served an apprenticeship at the harness-making trade at Bluffton, and followed that work at different places for ten years. He then joined a brother in his present business, and the firm is a very prosperous one.

Mr. Gilliom married Nellie Bennett, and they have one child, Lloyd. Mr. Gilliom is affiliated with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past chief patriarch of the Odd Fellows Encampment. In politics he is somewhat independent, but at the present time is classified as a democrat.

Sherman A. Watson. It is with the younger and more progressive element of Adams County that the name of Sherman A. Watson is properly classed. He is living on the old Watson homestead where he was born, and has shown the ability to make good in his old and familiar environment. He is a practical and progressive farmer, has 320 acres of land under his management and directs the operations with a high degree of success and profit. Mr. Watson always keeps on hand some high grade livestock and they furnish a large part of the profits from the annual operations.

On this farm in Hartford Township Mr. Watson was born November 30, 1885, a son of John W. and Phoebe (Pontius) Watson. His grandparents were Thomas and Sarah (Wright) Watson. It was his grand-

father who entered 320 acres of land in Adams County in early days, having moved here from the vicinity of Portland, Indiana. All this part of Adams County was then a wilderness and no inconsiderable share of the credit for pioneer and modern operations and improvements is due to the successive generations and work of the Watsons. Grandfather Thomas Watson died soon after coming to Adams County. He was the father of four sons, of these John W. is the father of Sherman A. and Anthony, is a resident of Jay County, Indiana.

John W. Watson married Phoebe Pontius and had three children: Charles T. Watson, a resident of Adams County, Hartford Township; Bertha, wife of John Hammitt, of Bryant, Indiana; and Sherman A. John W. Watson was formerly a stockholder in the Bank of Geneva, Indiana.

Sherman A. Watson was reared on the old farm, attended the district schools, and at the age of fifteen went to work as a regular hand at home. On December 24, 1908, Mr. Watson married Minnie North, daughter of Henry and Florida North. To their marriage have been born two children, Versal and John W. Mr. and Mrs. Watson are members of the Friends Church at White Oak and he is on the official board and church treasurer. Politically he is a stanch republican.

Herman A. Colchin has been a factor in Decatur business affairs for a number of years as a cigar manufacturer. His factory is No. 127 in the sixth internal revenue district of Indiana. It is located at 250 North Second Street, where he engaged in business on a modest scale thirteen years ago. At present his factory is conducted in a brick building of his own. Mr. Colchin is an expert in his line, and has four or five skillful workmen under him. Outside of a large local trade his goods are handled through a jobber over a large territory. His leading brand of cigars, a straight five cent product, is NHC, named after the local organization known as the Night Hawk Club. He also manufactures a fine ten cent cigar, La Sena, which has been on the market for eight years and has enjoyed a steady popularity. Several other brands are manufactured, and he uses the best domestic and Havana fillers while the cigars are wrapped in genuine Sumatra. Mr. Colchin is a practical cigar maker, having learned the trade in Decatur and then started out on his own account.

He was born at Decatur June 17, 1883, and was reared and educated in the city, where he has spent practically all his life. His parents were Peter H. and Magdalena (Schoen) Colchin. They were of German nativity, probably born in Alsace-Lorraine and when children came with their respective parents to America. Both the Colchin and Schoen families came to Adams County, Indiana, where the grandparents spent their remaining years. They were farming people and on both sides were active adherents of the Catholic Church. Peter H. Colchin and his wife were married in Adams County and then located on a farm, which received their best energies for many years. Their home was in Washington Township, where Peter Colchin died twelve years ago when past sixty, and his wife died in October, 1895, at the age of fifty-five. They were for many years members and supporters of St. Mary's Catholic Church and in politics he was a democrat. In their family were seven sons and two daughters. Both daughters died very young and one of the sons died at the age of six, and another, Henry, at the age of thirty-five, leaving two sons and two daughters. The living sons are John S. of Decatur, who is married, but lost his only child, and has two adopted daughters; Frank, a farmer in Oklahoma, is married and has a family; William P. is living retired at Decatur and while he and his wife

have no children of their own they have adopted a son and two daughters; Anthony is a grocery merchant in Oklahoma and has a family of sons and daughters.

Herman H. Colchin, the youngest of the family, has never married. He was educated in the local parochial schools and is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He has taken the fourth degree in the Knights of Columbus and he and all his brothers are democrats. For eight years he has been a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

CHRISTIAN EICHER. It was due to his possession of good judgment and those qualities which make a man successful in spite of the handicaps of fortune which caused his fellow citizens to bestow upon Christian Eicher the honor and responsibilities connected with the office of county commissioner of Adams County for two successive terms of three years each. Mr. Eicher did his work in the county well and with credit to himself and those who had elected him, and his official service is one of several things that stand to his credit as a representative citizen.

Mr. Eicher was born in Wabash Township of Adams County, March 5, 1872, a son of Christ and Elizabeth (Goldsmith) Eicher. His father was also born in Adams County and died when his son Christian was only seven months old. The mother, a native of De Kalb County, Indiana, died when her son was eight years old. Thus Christian Eicher was left without the care of parents and has had to make his own way in the world from an early age. He spent part of his boyhood in De Kalb County, where he attended the common schools as opportunity offered. All through his boyhood he has a memory of work in some capacity or other fitting his strength, and for a number of years he worked out as a farm hand by the year.

Mr. Eicher married in Hartford Township of Adams County Catherine Mosser. They started out brave and determined though with practically no capital and soon bought the farm where they now live. Not having the money to pay for it they depended upon their hard work to meet their obligations and in time they succeeded in getting the land paid for and in building and improving until their place of 100 acres would now bear favorable comparison with any farm of similar size in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Eicher have six children: John A., Raymond, Victor, Alice, Martha and Solomon.

Mr. Eicher is a democrat in politics, and has done much for the cause of the party and for local good government. His wife is active in the Missionary Church and one of the workers in its various causes and benevolences.

ALONZO SHANKS. As a result of circumstances over which he had no control Alonzo Shanks came to mature age with nothing more than a common school education, with considerable experience in hard work, and with practically no capital. Hard work has been the only means he has known for gaining success and advancement, and by strict reliance upon that principle he has finally achieved a modest competence and one of the good farms of Hartford Township.

Mr. Shanks, whose home is two miles south and one mile west of Linn Grove, was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, May 6, 1861, a son of Daniel and Susan J. (Reynolds) Shanks. Both parents were natives of Virginia, and they married after they came to Ohio. Daniel Shanks enlisted in the Union army and lost his life during the war. The widowed mother in 1868 moved to Adams County, Indiana, and spent

her last years in French Township. When a small boy Alonzo was sent to the home of an uncle, with whom he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He attended school during the winter terms, and for his work at the age of twenty-one was given a horse, saddle and bridle. After that he spent some years working at the carpenter's trade, and on October 4, 1887, married Clarissa Runyon. Mrs. Shanks was born in Adams County, July 15, 1863, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Nichols) Runyon. Her father was formerly a county commissioner. Mrs. Shanks was reared in Hartford Township, and was educated in the local schools.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Shanks went to Geneva, where he was employed in a grocery store for two years and afterwards worked at different occupations. He finally moved to a farm beginning as a renter, and in the course of time was able to buy the land which now constitutes his home. Mr. Shanks has been steadily making improvements on his farm and has kept apace with the growing demands upon his agricultural profession. He is a successful breeder of Chester White hogs and has a fine type of this strain at the head of his herd known as Petroleum Wonder. He also keeps good grades of other livestock.

Mr. and Mrs. Shanks are the parents of three children. Grover C. is unmarried and still at home; Flossie O. is the wife of Aaron Hart of Hartford Township; and Iscle, who is a graduate of the common schools and spent one year in the Linn Grove High School. The family are all members of the Christian Church and Mr. Shanks is one of the church trustees. Politically he is a democrat and has served as a member of the advisory board of his township.

C. L. Brentlinger. Among the able and prosperous agriculturists of Adams County is C. L. Brentlinger of Kirkland Township, whose well tilled land, comfortable dwelling, good barns, farm machinery, and stock, all bespeak the supervision of an intelligent and progressive business man, who knows by what means his possessions have been acquired, and properly realizes their value. He was born, December 20, 1844, in Auglaize County, Ohio, a son of Andrew and Margaret (Evans) Brentlinger. Neither of his parents are living, his mother having died in December, 1865, and his father in June, 1888. He has one brother, Philip, living in Ohio, and one sister, Mrs. Lavine McClure.

Mr. Brentlinger left his native state many years ago, coming to Indiana in search of cheap land. Locating in Kirkland Township, Adams County, he bought the farm he now owns and occupies. The country roundabout was then comparatively new, but the soil was good, yielding readily to cultivation, and in the course of a few years of intensive labor he had a well-improved estate, upon which he is now enjoying life.

Mr. Brentlinger married, March 10, 1871, Margaret Bedford. She was born in Ohio, and was there educated. Her father, Samuel Bedford, a native of Pennsylvania, was born and reared in Philadelphia, while his wife, Mary A. Bedford, was born in Ireland, and as a girl came with her parents to America. Mr. Bedford died in August, 1900, aged ninety-one years. His wife died in 1894. They had seven children, five living and two dead. Those living are: Sarah, Milton, James, William, and Margaret, now Mrs. Brentlinger. Six children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brentlinger, namely: Flora, wife of Henry Drum, has five children, Dorphes, Effie, Noble, Opal, and Edna; Minnie, wife of Edward Barger, has two children, Grace E. and Theodore E.; Arthur married Ethel Smith, and they are the parents of four children, Frank L., Lee, Ruby, and June; Orville, who married Nona

Deihls, has two children, Cleo and Lionel; Silvia, wife of Emanuel Miller, has five children, Nina Pearl, Mildred Pauline, Margaret Elizabeth, Dorothy Blanche and Golda May; Pearl, wife of Chester Booher, has three children, Russell, Raymond and Ruth.

JOHN EVERETT. A man of business tact and judgment, John Everett, of Decatur, holds a position among the successful merchants of Adams County, and as head of the firm of Everett & Hite is carrying on an extensive wholesale business, dealing in fruit and groceries. A son of the late Dr. William Everett, he was born, November 12, 1855, in Van Wert County, Ohio, of Scotch and English ancestry.

Dr. William Everett was born, about 1812, in Pennsylvania, and there grew to man's estate. As a young man, he turned his attention to the study of medicine, and after obtaining his degree he located in Columbiana County, Ohio, where he built up a fine practice. Later in life, Doctor Everett bought 160 acres of land in Harrison Township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and in addition to farming continued his professional labors, having a large medical practice in that and surrounding counties. He died at the age of sixty-five years, in 1877. Doctor Everett married a Miss McDonnell, who was born in Scotland, and when eighteen years old came to the United States with her parents, Gavern and Mary McDonnell, who settled as farmers in Columbiana County, Ohio, from there settling permanently in Van Wert County.

The doctor's wife preceded him to the better world, dying when but forty-five years old. Of the ten children born of their marriage, nine grew to years of maturity, and married, and seven are still living.

Brought up in his native county, John Everett acquired a practical education in the public schools, and was subsequently variously employed until entering upon a mercantile career. In 1890, he formed a partnership with Henry Hite, with whom he has been associated for twenty-seven years, the firm name being Everett & Hite. Locating first on the corner of Second and Madison streets, Decatur, these enterprising gentlemen put in a stock of groceries, and in addition to managing the store were for five years also engaged in the manufacture of hoops and staves. They carried on a retail business until 1914, when they moved to their present commodious building on Monroe Street, at the corner of Third Street, since which time they have confined themselves entirely to the wholesale trade, dealing in fruit and groceries. The firm, which has an extensive trade in both Indiana and Ohio, employs several clerks in their store, and keep a representative on the road.

Mr. Everett married Eliza Roop, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1856, and there grew to womanhood. Her parents, Amos and Rachel (Croninger) Roop, life-long residents of Ohio, spent their last days in Willshire Township, Van Wert County, his death occurring about middle age, while she lived until 1880, dying at an advanced age, in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Roop reared seven children, of whom four survive. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and brought up their children in the same religious faith. Mr. and Mrs. Everett have one child, Ina, who was graduated from the Decatur High School, and is now the wife of Calvin Petterson, a prosperous clothing merchant in Decatur. Politically Mr. Everett is identified with the republican party, and though not an office seeker he has served for three years on the local board of education. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of the Indepentent Order of Odd Fellows. In religion he and his family are Baptists.

HENRY HITE. Member of the firm of Everett & Hite, wholesale merchants in Decatur, Henry Hite is a representative of one of the longest established mercantile organizations of Adams County, the firm having been in existence for upwards of thirty years, the members thereof working together harmoniously during the time. He was born March 17, 1853, in Mahoning County, Ohio,

Mr. Hite's father, John Hite, was born in Germany, and when a mere child came with his parents to this country. After living for a while in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he moved to Mahoning County, Ohio, where he drove a stage for a few years. Later in life he came with his wife and children to Indiana, and located in Allen County, near the old Erie Canal. He then bought land in Naples, Allen County, and was there engaged in farming a few years, after which he moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he died when but forty-four years old. The maiden name of the wife of John Hite was Margaret Young. She, too, was born in Germany, and at the age of fourteen years came to America. While living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she met and married Mr. Hite. She survived him, dying at her home in Maples, Indiana, in 1897, aged seventy-seven years. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, to which her husband also belonged.

Henry Hite was educated in the common schools of Mahoning County, Ohio, and as a boy and youth became well acquainted with the many branches of agriculture. About 1887 he formed a co-partnership with John Everett, and as a member of the well-known and prosperous firm of Everett & Hite has been actively engaged in mercantile pursuits in Decatur ever since. The firm carried on a substantial retail business for many years, in 1914 becoming wholesale dealers in fruit and groceries, lines of merchandise in which they have built up a large and lucrative trade, their business operations extending throughout the eastern part of Indiana and Western Ohio.

Mr. Hite married first Anna Wimer, who was born in Ohio, and died soon after her marriage in Decatur, Indiana, at the early age of twenty-two years, leaving no children. Mr. Hite married for his second wife, in Decatur, Lillie B. Wilson, a native of Decatur, and they are the parents of four children, namely: Hugh, who received a high school and a business education, and is now engaged in the clothing business with Mr. Vance, married Gertrude Waring, and they have two children, Virginia and Robert; Fannie, a clerk in the office of the Peoples Loan and Trust Company; Margaret, also a high school graduate, is bookkeeper for the firm to which her father belongs; and Mary, wife of Oscar Huffman, an architect, has one son, Billy. In politics Mr. Hite is a republican, and for four years was township trustee. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his family are churchgoers, some being Methodists and some Presbyterians.

CHARLES N. CHRISTEN is a citizen of Adams County who carries a heavy weight of business and civic responsibility. He is the present mayor of Decatur and in the summer of 1917 Governor Goodrich commissioned him a member of the Conscription Board for Adams County, and thus he has had an important part and rendered his service to the Government in managing the selective draft of soldiers for the National army.

Mr. Christen was elected mayor of Decatur in November, 1913, for a term of four years. He has fully justified the confidence of his friends and supporters by his business like administration of affairs. In a business way Mr. Christen is well known as a building contractor all

over this section of Indiana. He has fulfilled a large number of important contracts, in the construction of schoolhouses, churches, private homes and other buildings. This business is conducted by the firm of Christen & Company which was established in 1915. Prior to that for fifteen years he was in partnership of Mann & Christen. Mr. Christen is also member of the firm Christen & Smith, plumbing contractors. Both these firms are distinct and have separate offices on Monroe street. During his long experience as a building contractor Mr. Christen has constructed the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches at Decatur, the Lutheran Church at Freidheim in Adams County, the Lutheran Church at Napoleon, Ohio, the Episcopal Church in Wells County, the Lutheran Church at Chattanooga, the high school at LaGrange and Howe, and also at Liberty in Union County, Indiana. The large Schafer Hardware Block at Decatur, the Studabaker Block and the Morrison Building in Decatur are also monuments to his work. This brief list, by no means conclusive, illustrates the character of the building contracting business of Mr. Christen.

Mr. Christen has spent all his active life in the building trade. His father before him was a building contractor and Charles N. at the age of fifteen began mechanical employment in the various departments of building work. He was born in Adams County forty-five years ago and grew up and received his education in the county schools.

He comes of old Swiss stock, pioneers in Adams County. Grandfather John Christen, Sr., was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, August 9, 1812, and was reared on a farm and also for a time followed the baking business. July 17, 1835, he married Miss Elizabeth Schaad, who was born in Canton Berne, January 7, 1814. In 1850 the family came to America, proceeding direct from New York to Adams County and there settling on a farm in section 16 and section 15 of Root Township. The land was partly improved, and John Christen moved his family into a log cabin and lived in one room for nine years. He then built an addition also of logs, giving them two rooms on the ground floor and an upper room. In 1875 the circumstances of the family permitted the erection of a fine brick house, which at that time was equal in point of construction and conveniences to any house in the township. John and Elizabeth Christen were the parents of twelve children, all but one born in Switzerland. Two of the sons, Godfrey and Albright, were soldiers with an Indiana regiment during the Civil war. Godfrey was promoted to captain.

The father of Charles N. Christen was Albright Christen, who was born in Berne, Switzerland, November 23, 1840, and was ten years of age when brought to Adams County. His parents lived long and useful lives in this county, John Christen, Sr., dying at the age of eighty-one and his wife at eighty-three. They were active members of the Reformed Church and reared their children to be law-abiding, good Christian people and industrious workers. The old homestead in Root Township is now owned by Edward Christen, county superintendent of schools, and a grandson of the original settler.

It was in this pioneer environment of Adams County that Albright Christen grew to manhood, and he remained at home until the outbreak of the war. He then enlisted in the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry and saw three years of active service. Among other campaigns he was in the expedition under Banks up the Red River, and though constantly exposed to danger and hardship he escaped capture or wounds. After his return from the army he took up the trade of carpenter and subsequently began building as an individual contractor and in 1874 he removed to Decatur, and continued active in his work until

his death in 1905. He was a democrat, but had no aspirations for office and never held one. In 1868 he married a neighbor girl in Root Township, Mary O. Lord, who was born in 1853 in Adams County of old New England stock, a family that has lived in this country for many generations. Her father, Reuben Lord, who died at his old home in Root Township five years ago, was born in Vermont July 15, 1807, and came to Adams County in the fall of 1836, entering eighty acres of Government land in Root Township. Later he bought another farm. In 1830 he married Sabrina Benson, who was born in New York State December 25, 1812, and died in 1869. Mrs. Mary O. (Lord) Christen died at Decatur, Indiana, in July, 1917.

Charles N. Christen was the second of the five children of his parents to grow up. His brother, William, is married and lives in Rockford, Ohio, and is mayor of that town. Eugene is unmarried and lives at Bakersfield, California. Elizabeth is the widow of Fred Vaughn and lives in Evanston, Illinois, having one son, Creed. Maud is the wife of Guy Johnson, living at Columbus, Ohio, and their children are Eugene, Elizabeth and an infant not yet named.

Mr. Charles N. Christen married at Decatur Amelia Smith, who was born in Decatur, and grew up here, obtaining her education in the parochial schools. They have two children, Germain and Bernadine, both students in the parochial schools. Mr. and Mrs. Christen are active members of the Catholic Church, and he was second grand knight of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Christen has always been a stanch democrat and for eight years prior to his election as mayor was a member of the city council.

John O. Fisher. A widely-known and prosperous dealer in staple and fancy groceries, John O. Fisher is numbered among the prominent business men of Decatur, Adams County, where, in 1915, the firm of Fisher & Harris, of which he is senior member, established a business that is constantly growing in extent and value, its volume of trade being large, and eminently satisfactory. He was born in 1878 in Indianapolis, Indiana, of Irish ancestry.

His father, Frank Fisher, was born and educated in Ireland. Coming to this country when young, he subsequently met and married Bridget Carr, also a native of the Emerald Isle. He settled first in Indianapolis, where he worked as a contractor for a number of years, from there going to Peru, Indiana, where he continued at his occupation until his death, in 1897, at the age of fifty-two years. His wife survived him, dying at the same age, in 1900. The father was a democrat and both were members of the Catholic Church. They reared seven sons and one daughter, and of these children one son is dead.

His parents having removed from Indianapolis to Peru, Indiana, when he was but six months old, John O. Fisher was there brought up, and in the parochial schools obtained his education. Soon after leaving school, he entered the employ of McCaffrey & Company, the leading grocers of Peru, and remained with the firm many years, and serving in all the positions from errand boy to manager of the concern. Forming a partnership with Mathew F. Harris in 1909, Mr. Fisher embarked in the furniture business in Peru, a corporation being formed with Mr. Fisher as president; Mr. Harris, vice president; P. J. Burke, secretary; and Hugh McCaffrey, treasurer. Starting with a capital of $25,000, a large stock of furniture was put in, and a successful business was established, and has since been carried on, the concern being one of the largest of its kind in that locality. In 1915 Mr. Fisher was made its vice president, Mr. Harris assuming the secretaryship, and the entire

business was placed under the supervision of a competent manager. On April 10, 1915, Messrs. Harris and Fisher, under their present firm name, established themselves in Decatur, opening a cash grocery store on Second Street, near Court Street, and have here built up a substantial trade in staple and fancy groceries. The building which the firm occupies is well adapted for the business, the store being 22 by 100 feet, with two large basements for storage.

Mr. Fisher married, in Peru, Indiana, Margaret Hartman, whose father, a contractor in Peru, was of German birth, while her mother was born in Ireland. Both of her parents were Roman Catholics, and reared their family in the same faith. Mrs. Fisher died February 7, 1917, leaving Mr. Fisher with two interesting children, Mary C., six years of age, and James, two years younger. Mr. Fisher is a democrat in politics, and a Catholic in religion. Fraternally he belongs to the Decatur Council, Knights of Columbus; to the Decatur Rotary Club and to the Peru Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Benjamin J. Smith. As head of the firm of Smith, Yager & Falk, Benjamin J. Smith of Decatur is intimately associated with the drug business of Adams County, being one of the proprietors of the "Rexall" Store, formerly known as the "Red Front Drug Store," which has the distinction of being one of the oldest established houses of the kind in this part of the state, while Mr. Smith is a registered pharmacist, having taken a position in this same store building upwards of thirty-three years ago. A son of Joseph Smith, Jr., he was born in Decatur, February 2, 1868.

Joseph Smith, Sr., grandfather of Mr. Smith, whose surname was originally Schmidt, came from Germany, his native land, to America in early life, crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel. Locating in Adams County, Indiana, he entered a tract of heavily timbered land in Washington Township, and soon the merry ring of his axe was heard as he began the clearing of a homestead. He was successful in his farming operations, and continued his labors until accidentally killed by a runaway team, while yet in the prime of life. He married a Miss Heutker and they reared three sons, Theodore, Henry, and Joseph, Jr. They were both members of the Roman Catholic Church, and reared their family in the same religious faith. Mrs. Smith later married Garrett Hessler. There were six children by that marriage, John, Garrett, Frank, August, Elizabeth, and Anna.

Born on the parental homestead about 1845, Joseph Smith, Jr., learned the trade of a wagon maker when young, he and his brothers all serving apprenticeships at that trade, and later started in business on his own account, opening a shop in Decatur, where he was prosperously engaged in the manufacture of wagons until the year preceding his death, which occurred in 1907. The maiden name of his first wife was Anna Wemhoff. She was born in Westphalia, Germany, and as a girl came to this country with her brother, Rev. John Wemhoff, a Catholic priest. She died when forty-four years of age at the birth of her youngest child. She was the mother of the following children, Benjamin J., Caroline, Leo, Amelia, Alvine, Lawrence, Nettie, Mamie, Joseph and Vincent. For his second wife Joseph Smith married Mary Bosse and they had one child, Margaret.

Benjamin J. Smith acquired his preliminary education in Decatur, attending the parochial schools. At the age of sixteen years, he secured a position as clerk in the drug store, which now, after passing through many changes, is known as the "Rexall Store." This store was established by T. T. Darwin in 1861, who admitted his brother to partner-

ship, when the firm name became Darwin Brothers, later being changed to Darwin & Holthouse, and then to Holthouse & Blackburn, with whom Mr. Smith began his clerkship in 1884. In 1891, Mr. Smith was admitted to partnership in the business of Holthouse & Blackburn. Changes in the firm subsequently necessitated changes of name, which became Holthouse & Smith, then Smith & Callow, then Smith & Yager, and after the admission of Mr. Falk as a partner, sixteen years ago, the firm assumed its present name, Smith, Yager & Falk. The large building occupied by the firm is located in the heart of the city, on Second Street, and is well filled from end to end with a full stock of everything kept in a first class drug store.

Mr. Smith married, in Decatur, Elizabeth Forbing, daughter of Peter and Mary Forbing, her father having been of German descent, and her mother of French ancestry. Mrs. Forbing died in Decatur in 1912, but Mr. Forbing for many years a prominent real estate dealer, still lives in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have five children living, namely: Estella; Elmo, who was graduated from St. Joseph's school, in Rensselaer, Indiana, is a soldier in the National Army, and expects to go to France in the near future; Virginia, educated in the parochial and high school; Othmen; and Rosemana. Religiously Mr. Smith and all of his family are faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church, having been ever true to the faith in which they were reared. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, in which he has taken the fourth degree, and of Decatur Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Julius Erhart. A worthy representative of the native-born citizens of Adams County, where his birth occurred September 16, 1867, Julius Erhart has spent his entire life in French Township, and in the development and promotion of its agricultural interests has been a prominent and important factor.

His parents, David and Anna (Stalter) Erhart, were born, educated and married in Switzerland. Lured across the ocean by the glowing reports of the industrial activities of the United States, they came directly from their native land to Indiana, locating in French Township. Buying a tract of land, they lived on the farm they improved during the remainder of their years, their homestead having been on section 11. Four sons and one daughter blessed their marriage, namely: Henry, of New Castle, Indiana; Albert, engaged in farming in French Township; Emel, of Pullman, Arizona; Rosa, wife of Edward Cratzer, of Blue Creek Township; and Julius.

Spending his earlier years on the parental homestead, Julius Erhart obtained his elementary education in the rural schools, and under his father's instruction gained a practical knowledge of the agricultural arts. Thus equipped, he began life for himself at the age of twenty-one years with fair prospects for a prosperous future, his undoubted energy, ability and business tact being valuable assets. Becoming owner of a part of the home estate, Mr. Erhart has met with most satisfactory results as a farmer, and by purchase has acquired title to an additional tract of land consisting of 120 acres, and now owns and operates 200 acres in French Township, the greater part of which is under cultivation. He is an exceedingly skillful farmer, and is in all respects a valuable citizen of his community, fulfilling his obligations and duties as such with fidelity.

Mr. Erhart married, October 23, 1893, Emma Zangg. She was born in French Township, October 17, 1868, and was educated in the district schools. Six children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Er-

hart, namely: Dula, wife of William Prestlorf; Harry; Lester; Mary; Frieda, and Gorman. Politically Mr. Erhart is a sound republican, and has rendered appreciated service as township supervisor. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Erhart are active members of the Reformed Church at Honduras, in which he has served as deacon for ten years, and has also been prominent in the work of its Sunday school.

LAWRENCE LINNEMEIER. What the village of Preble means to the people of the surrounding community is largely a measure of the service rendered by Lawrence Linnemeier as the proprietor of the leading general store of that town. Mr. Linnemeier is a live and progressive young business man, keeps a first class stock of general merchandise, including groceries, meats and dry goods, and has every department kept up to date in every particular. He takes orders by telephone, and makes regular deliveries by automobile in every direction, being the originator of this system in this community. He has shown ability to buy carefully, to look after his trade as a matter of service and fair dealing, and he is an asset to the community and has a large success ahead of him.

Mr. Linnemeier was born in Preble Township of Adams County, December 22, 1893, son of H. D. and Katherine (Beinz) Linnemeier. His father was born in Germany but was brought to this country when about seven weeks of age. His mother is a native of Van Wert County, Ohio, and is still living. H. D. Linnemeier who died May 26, 1915, was well known in Adams County. At one time he followed the business and was considered an expert in the drilling of wells. Later for ten years he was connected with the Preble Telephone Company, was the first operator in charge of the local switchboard and did some of the pioneer work in introducing the telephone into popular favor and usage in this part of Adams County. He was also for several successive years assessor of the township and was an active member of the Lutheran Church. He and his wife had children named Martha, Rudolph, Frederick, Otto and Oscar, twins, and Lawrence.

Lawrence Linnemeier was educated in the parochial schools of Preble Township, attending those schools for seven years. He and his parents have always been active members of the Lutheran Church and after his education was completed in the Lutheran parochial schools he attended the public schools two years. Mr. Linnemeier has cast his vote as a democrat since coming to his majority. In 1909, when only sixteen years of age, he went to work in a general store, afterwards followed other lines of employment, and finally joined in partnership with his brother in operating a general store at Preble, and in 1915 bought the interests of his brother and has since been sole proprietor.

On November 25, 1915, Mr. Linnemeier married Luetta Koldeway, daughter of Frederick and Amelia Koldeway of Adams County. Mrs. Linnemeier has two sisters and one brother named Frieda, Martha and Gerhart. The only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Linnemeier, Marguerite, died in infancy.

JOHN J. SUTTON. Wells County was just beginning to emerge from the wilderness when the Sutton family established their first home here. Some of the woods had been leveled, land broken up and in cultivation before Mr. John J. Sutton was born, and practically his entire lifetime of three-quarters of a century has been lived in this county.

Mr. Sutton was born in Nottingham Township of Wells County June 11, 1843, but his work and interests for the greater part of his life have

MR. AND MRS. JOHN J. SUTTON

been in Liberty Township, where he is now a successful farmer, owning 150 acres in section 35.

He is a son of Amos and Elsie (Jones) Sutton. His father was a son of Amos Sutton, Sr., a native of New York State, who in very early pioneer times moved to Randolph County, Indiana, and spent his life there. Amos, Jr., grew up in Randolph County, married in Kentucky, and soon afterward invaded the wilds of Wells County, where he located about 1835, more than fourscore years ago. He first entered forty acres of wild land in Nottingham Township, but some years later sold that and moved to Liberty Township, where he and his wife spent their last years. He worked in Cincinnati, Ohio, to pay his taxes. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton were the parents of a large family of twelve children, John J. being the only survivor.

As a boy John J. Sutton attended the public schools of his native county, and was eighteen years of age when the war broke out. He soon afterward enlisted in Company H of the 48th Indiana Infantry, and saw an active service of about eight months. He received his honorable discharge in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Sutton married Louisa Lee, daughter of Alexander Lee, a former county commissioner of Wells County. They had eight children, seven of who are still living. Mr. Sutton is an honored member of Lew Daily Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in politics votes with the democrats. Mrs. Sutton belongs to the Women's Relief Corps.

Edward Gallmeyer. Industriously engaged in the prosecution of a calling upon which not only our country, but the world largely depends, Edward Gallmeyer, of Adams County, is meeting with signal success as an agriculturist, his well improved and highly productive farm being among the best in Preble Township. A son of F. W. and Wilhelmina Gallmeyer, he was born, March 13, 1868, in Preble Township, on the farm which he now owns and occupies. The land was bought from the government by his grandfather Gallmeyer, who came from Germany to the United States with his family in 1844, and settled in Adams County.

A boy when brought to Indiana by his parents, F. W. Gallmeyer assisted his father in redeeming a portion of the homestead from the forest, and also worked to some extent at the carpenter's trade. In 1858 he received from his father, for the small consideration of $300, a deed to the home farm, on which he subsequently lived and labored until his death, July 2, 1888. His wife, who came to this country from Germany with her parents in the fall of 1858, survived him many years, dying February 5, 1905, and leaving the following named children: Conrad D., Edward, Minnie, Fred, Lizzie, Martin and Ernest. Both parents were members of the German Lutheran Church, in which the father served as an elder. The father was active in public affairs, having served for two years as township assessor; for four years as justice of the peace; and having filled various other offices, including that of constable, township trustee and magistrate.

Edward Gallmeyer was educated in the public schools, and while assisting his father became familiar with the many branches of agriculture. Assuming possession of the home farm on April 1, 1903, he has since devoted his time and energies to general farming, an occupation which he has found both pleasant and profitable. This farm, in the improvement of which he assisted, is all cleared with the exception of a strip of timber lying along the bank of the creek, and is furnished with a substantial set of buildings, and all the machinery necessary for successfully carrying on his work.

Mr. Gallmeyer married, May 1, 1898, Elizabeth Zwick, one of the three daughters of Charles and Minnie Zwick, of Adams County, the others being Sophia and Minnie. Mr. and Mrs. Gallmeyer have two children, Edwin and Edna. Mrs. Gallmeyer was born, November 22, 1868, in Preble Township, where her parents located on coming to Indiana from Germany. Both she and her husband are valued members of the German Lutheran Church, in which he has held various offices, for the past two years having served as trustee. For nine years Mr. Gallmeyer has been township assessor, and is now secretary of the Friedheim & Poe Telephone Company.

JOHN G. HOFFMAN. Representative of the business men of Adams County, John G. Hoffman is actively identified with the promotion of the agricultural and financial affairs of Northeastern Indiana, being a successful farmer, and a prominent banker of Preble. A native of Adams County, he was born, December 19, 1864, in Preble Township, a son of Jacob and Margaret Hoffman, the former of whom was born in Massilon, Ohio, while the latter was born, in 1834, in Zweibrike, Germany, and came with her parents to America in 1849.

Coming from Ohio to Indiana soon after his marriage, Jacob Hoffman bought 160 acres of land in Adams County, and by energetic and persistent labor cleared and improved a good homestead. He subsequently bought two other farms of eighty acres each, and began their improvement. He died while yet in manhood's prime, his death occurring in September, 1877. His widow outlived him many years, dying February 29, 1908, at an advanced age. She reared four children, Daniel; Elizabeth, living in Nebraska; Mary, also a resident of Nebraska; and John G.

When ready to assume the responsibilities of life, John G. Hoffman purchased eighty acres of his father's estate, and began farming on his own account in Preble Township. He cleared thirty acres of it, and has since, by added improvements, each year increased its value. On March 1, 1913, he bought eighty acres of his brother's estate, and has cleared and improved ten acres of that, placing the land in a productive condition. In addition to superintending his farms, Mr. Hoffman, with characteristic enterprise and foresight, engaged in the banking business, organizing, January 7, 1915, in Preble, the bank of which he has since been president, it being capitalized at $25,000, with resources amounting to $130,000. Mr. Hoffman is likewise engaged in the general insurance business, being agent for the Preble Township Fire Insurance Company.

On May 5, 1889, Mr. Hoffman was united in marriage with Sophia Breiner, a daughter of John and Rebecca Breiner, of Adams County, and a sister, Mrs. Kate Schoenstedt, wife of Henry Schoenstedt, of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have six children, namely: Clara, wife of Louis Koldewey, of Union Township, Adams County; Charles; Louis; Oscar; Ella; and Selma.

HENRY FREDERICK LINN. Possessing not only much mechanical genius and ability, but undoubted business tact and judgment, Henry F. Linn, of Adams County, has achieved marked success as a contractor and builder, and acquired a place of prominence among the highly esteemed and respected citizens of Decatur, his home city. A son of the late Solomon Linn, he was born, September 14, 1863, in Sandusky County, Ohio, on both sides of the house coming from Pennsylvania Dutch stock.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1835, Solomon Linn migrated to Ohio when

young, locating first in Medina County, and later in Sandusky County, where he followed carpentry several years. Soon after the close of the war, he came with his family to Adams County, Indiana, settling in Decatur, where he became actively identified with the industrial interests of the city as a carpenter. He did much building in the city limits, among other things having assisted in the building of the Evangelical Church, of which he and his wife were charter members. A man of strong individuality, he became active in the democratic ranks, and served ably as a member of the city council for one term. Fraternally he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He outlived the allotted three score and ten years of man's life, dying, in 1913, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary A. Miller, was born in Pennsylvania, and died in Decatur, a few months after he did, aged seventy-five years. Their union was blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows: Henry F.; Sadie, wife of A. S. Elsey, of Ossian, Wells County; Frank W., killed in an auto accident in Chicago; Elizabeth, wife of E. B. Kenn, living in Van Buren, Indiana; Charles E., of Clyde Park, Montana; Wall E., of Bakersfield, California; Edward W., died when but twenty-four years old; and Clyde D., engaged in business with his brother, Henry, as foreman.

But a small child when brought by his parents to Decatur, Henry F. Linn obtained a practical education in the city schools, and having as a boy exhibited great dexterity in the use of tools began quite young to assist his father in the carpenter's shop. Growing up in the trade, he was associated with his father in the erection of many buildings, among which is the Central School Building. A skilful and thorough workman, exhibiting much wisdom and excellent judgment in the execution of his plans, Mr. Linn has gained an enviable reputation as a contractor and builder, and is kept busy at all times. By means of thrift and industry, Mr. Linn has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods, having a fine property in the city, including the large, double stucco house, at the corner of First and Rugg streets, which he has just completed.

Mr. Linn married Miss Anora Lower, who was born in Union Township and is a sister of William B. Lower. Mr. and Mrs. Linn have three children, namely: Joseph, living in Decatur; William, who was graduated from the Decatur High School with the class of 1916, is in the employ of Vance & Hite Clothing Store; and Lawrence, attending the high school. Mrs. Linn is a member of the Evangelical Church, in which she is an active worker. A democrat in politics, Mr. Linn has rendered the city excellent service as a member of the city council, and takes great interest in public affairs. Fraternally he is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 65, Knights of Pythias, of which he became a member in 1884, and Mrs. Linn is a member of the Pythian Sisters.

Will Hammell is one of the younger members of the bar of Adams County but was soon called from the walks of private practice to the duties of the responsible office of clerk of the Adams Circuit Court. He is one of the most popular officials in the courthouse of Decatur, and has justified the choice of the people many times by the efficiency and care with which he performs his work.

Mr. Hammell graduated from the high school of Decatur with the class of 1908, and after that diligently applied himself to the study of law in the office of Judge David E. Smith. He worked at his law books four years and on December 24, 1910, was admitted to the bar. He then took up active practice.

In the democratic primaries of 1913 Mr. Hammell's name went before the people of the county as candidate for the nomination for clerk of the Adams County Circuit Court of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit. He had two opponents, and after his nomination he had no difficulty in getting elected in the fall of 1914. He began his official duties on January 1, 1916. One of Mr. Hammell's opponents at the primaries was John T. Kelley, from the south part of the county. Mr. Hammell has not shown any narrow partisanship and has looked to the needs of the office and the efficiency of the local government, and his broadmindedness in this respect was well illustrated when he appointed Mr. Kelley as his deputy, making that appointment without any solicitation and merely for the purpose of giving honor where honor was due. Both Mr. Kelley and Mr. Hammell are very active and prominent democrats in the county.

Will Hammell was born in Washington Township of Adams County February 9, 1887. He still makes his home at the old residence near the City of Decatur where he grew up and where he attended the public schools. He took up the study of law at the age of twenty years and had entered upon his duties in one of the most responsible offices in the county government before he was thirty.

He is a son of Cyrus R. and Sarah (Baker) Hammell. His father was born in Ohio and his mother in Adams County, Indiana, and they were married in Whitley County, Indiana. Soon after their marriage they came to Adams County, where the father was engaged in the sawmill business until his death on May 20, 1917, at the age of seventy-six years, nineteen days. In politics he was a republican. His widow is still living at the age of sixty-two. She is active in the Presbyterian Church as was her husband. They had a family of eleven children, one of whom died in infancy, and of the five daughters and five sons two of the latter are married. One sister, Miss Fay, is assisting her brother in the office of clerk of the Circuit Court. Mr. Hammell is an active member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Loyal Order of Moose at Decatur, and has joined both of these organizations since his election to office. He is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church.

William Frazier has been a resident of Adams County for over thirty-five years, and for the past three years has had his home in Decatur, where he is giving his entire time and attention to his duties as county assessor. He was elected to this office on the democratic ticket in the fall of 1914. In 1910 he was appointed a drainage commissioner, for two years, being appointed by the board of county commissioners. He did some good work with the drainage commission, and during his term they had some very important work on hand in laying out and adjusting assessments for the beneficaries of improvements.

Mr. Frazier came to Decatur from Blue Creek Township of Adams County, where he had previously served as township assessor and as member of the township advisory board. He went to Blue Creek Township in 1882, and for many years was a practical farmer and dairyman there. He was a comparatively poor man when he entered that section, acquired forty acres of land in the midst of the heavy timber, cleared it up, and his character as a hard working and prospering farmer was what gave him the confidence of his fellow citizens and has kept him much in public affairs in recent years. He improved his farm with substantial buildings, and developed his business chiefly along dairying lines, and made large quantities of butter which always commanded the highest prices at the Decatur markets. He was also a successful poultry raiser.

Mr. Frazier came to Adams County from a farm eight miles from

Circleville in Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was born August 13, 1851. He grew up and received his education there and by experience acquired the faculty of good judgment that has enabled him to make a substantial success in life.

His parents were Jacob and Martha (Winstead) Frazier, both natives of Pennsylvania. They came with their respective parents to Ohio, the Fraziers locating in Fairfield County and the Winsteads in Pickaway County. Martha Winstead's parents spent the rest of their lives on a farm in that county and were active members of the Zion Lutheran Church. The paternal grandparents lived out their lives in Clear Creek Township of Fairfield County, and both died when past eighty years of age. They were members of the English Lutheran Church. Both the Fraziers and Winsteads were democrats from the time of Andrew Jackson. Jacob Frazier was born in Pennsylvania about 1805, grew up as a farmer boy in Fairfield County, and was working as a farm hand in Pickaway County where he met and married his wife. Later he returned to Clear Creek Township in Fairfield County, and was an active farmer there until his death in 1886 at the age of eighty-two. His wife died five years later when not quite eighty. They had for many years been active members of the English Lutheran Church. In their family were eight children, six of whom married, four sons and two daughters. William Frazier's brother George still lives on a farm in Clear Creek Township of Fairfield and is married and has a family. Another brother, Jacob F., is an electric foundryman at Columbus, Ohio, where he has been located for the past twelve years, and has a wife but no children. Noah H., the other living brother, is a farmer in Pickaway County and has a family.

William Frazier married in 1874 in his native county Miss Louisa Wolfe, who was born in Clear Creek Township of that county on March 6, 1854. She was a daughter of John and Catherine (Spangler) Wolfe, both natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers in Fairfield County, Ohio, where they were married. They accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Frazier to Adams County in 1882, bought a home in Blue Creek Township, and made a good farm of it. John Wolfe died there at the age of sixty-six and his wife at the age of seventy-eight. They were members of the English Lutheran Church and in politics he was a democrat. Their family consisted of three sons and four daughters, and all the sons and two of the daughters are living, married and have families of their own.

Mr. and Mrs. Frazier had four children: Cora married Arthur Stove and they live on a farm in Van Wert County, Ohio; their children are Roy, Ralph, and Pearl, all now students in the public schools. The daughter, Flora, who died January 22, 1900, married Professor Frank Porter, a well known educator who is now principal of the Decatur High School. She left a daughter, Opal Leah, who has been reared in the home of her Grandfather Frazier and is now a student in the city high school. Katie B., the third child, lives at home and keeps house for her father. William H., the youngest, is a carpenter by trade and is still unmarried, living with his father. Mr. Frazier's family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN MOSURE was inducted into the office of auditor of Adams County January 1, 1917. His administration during the first year has been a most gratifying personal achievement, and has fully justified the confidence of his supporters at the election. He has kept the machinery of office moving smoothly and has done much to improve the general financial credit of the county government.

Mr. Mosure was nominated for office in the spring primaries of 1916,

was elected in November and at the time of his election was a resident of French Township. Mr. Mosure was born in Wells County, Indiana, September 21, 1865. He grew up at Vera Cruz in his native county, and from early boyhood was familiar with and had much practical experience in his father's blacksmith shop. He learned the trade and followed it actively for eighteen years, chiefly at Vera Cruz in Wells County. He owned a shop there, but in the fall of 1900, on election day, removed to French Township in Adams County and bought forty acres of land. To this he added twenty-four acres, and brought all of it under thorough cultivation. It was from the business of a practical farmer that he was called to his present duties as county auditor. Mr. Mosure still owns his farm. In 1909 he was elected trustee of French Township, and filled that office with credit for six years, the efficiency he exercised as trustee making the groundwork of confidence on which the people chose him to a county position.

His parents were Jonathan and Catherine (Krill) Mosure, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. When quite small they were taken to Indiana, Jonathan Mosure to Adams County and Catherine Krill to Wells County. They were married in Wells County and Jonathan followed his trade as a blacksmith for many years. He conducted a shop at Bluffton and following the Civil war he removed to Vera Cruz and with his brother, David, entered business under the name Mosure Brothers, manufacturing buggies, carriages and other vehicles. That they put good workmanship and good materials into their output is evident by the fact that some of their vehicles are still doing service. Jonathan Mosure retired from business some years ago and passed away in May, 1913, at the age of seventy-six. His widow is still living at the old home aged seventy-six. They were active members of the Christian Church and he was a lifelong democrat and in early life quite prominent in party affairs.

John Mosure married in Adams County Miss Idell Yarger, a Wells County girl, who was born in that county May 8, 1870. She was reared and educated in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Mosure have a family of four children. Osa, born in 1892, was educated at Vera Cruz and is the wife of Nathaniel Meshberger and has one son, Harold. Harley, born in 1893, is fireman of the waterworks plant at Bluffton and married Nellie Flowers. Cleo, aged twenty-one, is the wife of Norman Statler of Kirkland Township and has a daughter, Dorothy L. David H., who was born in May, 1897, and lives in Bluffton, married Mabel Deitrich and has a daughter, Cecil M. Mr. John Mosure has been a democrat all his life. On March 5, 1892, he was initiated into the Lodge of Odd Fellows at Bluffton, and has completed twenty-five years of faithful fellowship with that order. He is a past noble grand and has been a delegate to state lodge. He and has wife are members of the Rebekahs.

Dennis Alberson. It is not unusual to find the vocations of farming and merchandising closely allied, especially in the smaller communities of the Middle West, where the principal general store is often presided over and owned by men who have spent a great part of their lives in agriculture and often are still farming. In the district where the farmers rely largely upon the village stores for their supplies and a market place for their goods, this forms a happy medium of trade. The store proprietor, having been himself an agriculturist, can more readily make agreeable transactions and arrangements for fair dealing with his brethren of the soil. In this connection mention should be made of Dennis Alberson, who is merchandising at Petroleum and who is also a farmer of Wells County with valuable holdings in Nottingham Township.

Mr. Alberson was born on a farm in Nottingham Township of Wells County September 27, 1864, son of Charles and Mary A. (Brown) Alberson, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Randolph County, Indiana. Charles Alberson at the age of two years was brought by his parents to Adams County, Indiana, where he was educated, reared, grew to manhood and married. For several years he lived on a farm near Geneva, but in 1856 moved to Wells County and bought eighty acres in Nottingham Township. That was his home until his death and his wife also spent her last years there. They were faithful members of the Christian Church, earnest, devout and industrious people, who won the respect and esteem of their neighbors and acquaintances and stood high in the general estimation of their community. Charles Alberson was a republican. Of the ten children in the family nine reached maturity and are still living: Joshua, a resident of Nottingham Township; Elizabeth, widow of Winfield S. Settle; Philip B., a farmer and stock raiser in Nottingham Township; Catherine, wife of Warren Walser, of Montpelier, Indiana; Nancy, widow of James N. Tinsley, of Bridgeport, Illinois: Samuel, engaged in farming in Missouri; Julia, wife of Robert Gilby, of Michigan; Jacob, who lives at Geneva; and Dennis.

Dennis Alberson was reared on the home farm in Wells County, attended district schools, but at the age of thirteen, owing to the death of his father, he had to start working and making a serious contribution to the upkeep of the family. Consequently the success he has achieved has been the result of his own efforts. All that he owns today he can credit to his business ability, industry and perseverance. On reaching his majority he had but little capital, yet three years later at twenty-four, on March 7, 1889, he founded a home of his own by his marriage to Lavinia Laine. They started housekeeping on a farm in the vicinity of Montpelier and made that place their home for five years. Mrs. Alberson died there, the mother of two sons: William C., the older son, born February 9, 1890, is a graduate of the common schools and by his marriage to Ruthella Carter, has three children: Audrey, Madonna and Eloise. J. E. Alberson, the younger son, born July 17, 1892, also had a public school education and married Denaner Evans, and has two children: Edward and Herbert.

Mr. Alberson continued as a practical farmer until 1895 when he engaged in the livery business at Montpelier in partnership with W. H. Settle for three years. In 1898 he enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war in Company F of the One Hundred and Sixtieth Indiana Infantry. He was with his command for one year and during the preliminary training was in camp at Chattanooga, at Lexington, Kentucky, Columbus, Georgia, Charleston, South Carolina. He and his comrades then took transport to Matanzas, Cuba, and he was on the island in service for three months. He received his honorable discharge at Savannah, Georgia.

Following that war Mr. Alberson spent a few months at Montpelier, returned to Wells County, and in 1909 went to Southeastern Missouri where he bought a farm. His son cleared and improved this land. After six months in that state Mr. Alberson engaged in the real estate business for two years, and on returning to Indiana worked for the Standard Oil Company two years. In 1911 he and his son William bought a store at Phoenix and besides running this mercantile establishment until 1914 also sold Missouri lands. In 1914 Mr. Alberson bought the store at Petroleum. At that time he formed the firm of Alberson & Son. This concern now owns the store and also considerable farm and town property, father and sons being partners in all their undertakings. They

bear excellent reputations in this locality and are known as public-spirited and worth while citizens, supporters of education, religion and charity and promoters of movements for the furtherance of the public welfare. They are republicans in politics, but have taken no particularly active part in public affairs save as private citizens.

THOMAS F. GROVE. Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity and to pursue this with a resolute, unflagging energy. It results from continued labor and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in business or agricultural circles of the community with which he is connected. Through such means Thomas F. Grove has attained a leading place among the representative agriculturists of Chester Township, and his well spent and honorable life has been rewarded by the accumulation of a good property, lying on Poneto Rural Route No. 1.

Mr. Grove is a native son of Wells County, Indiana, and was born on a farm in Harrison Township, December 28, 1873, being a son of Joshua S. and Lydia (Balur) Grove, the former a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and the latter also born in the Buckeye State. Both Joshua and Lydia Grove were young people when brought by their parents to Indiana, the families settling not far from each other in Wells County, south of Bluffton and near Poneto, where the young people met. The grandparents passed the remaining years of their lives on their respective farms, reaching advanced years and rounding out careers of honor and usefulness. Joshua S. Grove was a lifelong farmer and the developer of a goodly share of property. He passed his life within the limits of Wells County from his boyhood, and during the later years of his life lived on the farm that is now occupied by his son in Chester Township, where he died November 17, 1899, Mrs. Grove passing away April 15, 1916. Mr. Grove was a democrat in politics, was active in the ranks of his party, and a man of some importance and influence in his community, serving in the capacity of county commissioner from 1895 to 1898. He was a devout Christian and a member of the United Brethren Church, to which Mrs. Grove, who died April 15, 1916, also belonged. They were the parents of ten children, of whom three are now living: Lollie, who is the wife of George W. Carnes, a minister of the Methodist Church; Merton A., a resident of Poneto; and Thomas F.

Thomas F. Grove took his studies at the district school in the vicinity of his father's farm and was reared to the pursuits of agriculture, in which he has always been engaged. At the time of his father's death, he became the manager of the property, which he operated for his mother until the latter's death, when he became the owner by inheritance and by purchase from the other heirs. He had made numerous improvements on this land, which now presents a prosperous and up-to-date appearance, reflecting the spirit and enterprise of its owner. He is a democrat in his political views, and was for some years identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1896 Mr. Grove was married to Stella Campbell, daughter of Robert Campbell, of Liberty Center, and they have two children: Ralph C. and Ruby M., the former a graduate of the graded schools, has spent one year in the Bluffton High School; and the latter is now attending the graded schools.

WALDO E. SMITH, M. D. Among the younger members of the medical profession in Adams County no one is spoken of with higher appreciation of his ability than Dr. Waldo E. Smith, of Decatur.

Doctor Smith is a graduate of the medical department of the Ohio State University at Columbus, getting his M. D. degree in 1906. Thus for more than ten years he has given his time and efforts to a general practice as a physician and surgeon at Decatur, and a splendid patronage has been accorded him from all over the county. Doctor Smith has his offices in his home, which is a beautiful brown stucco house, one of the most attractive residences of the city. He has taken an active part in the work of the County and State Medical societies, and has served as president and secretary of the County Society.

Doctor Smith was born near Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, December 30, 1871. He grew up there, attended the public schools, graduated from the Ohio Northern University in 1896, and had one year of teaching experience in his native county. In June, 1896, he came to Decatur, Indiana, and taught township schools four years and for a time was principal of the Pleasant Mills school before taking up the study of medicine.

Doctor Smith is a son of Jasper and Flora (Case) Smith. Jasper's brother Clinton Smith was for many years a successful physician in Fayette County, Ohio. Jasper Smith and wife were both born in Franklin County, Ohio, where the family were among the earliest pioneers. One of Doctor Smith's ancestors, Peter Willington, is credited with having erected the second house in Franklin County. That old home stood on the banks of the Scioto River and was in good state of preservation until 1916. Peter Willington was one of the men who witnessed the execution of the Indian Leatherlips by order of the famous Tecumseh. Leatherlips was chief of the Wyandotte tribe and was executed on a charge of witchcraft preferred by Tecumseh, more for the purpose of getting rid of that influential leader than on any real ground to support the charge. Jasper Smith was a grandson of David Smith, son of Nelson Smith. David Smith was granted a license as teacher in 1801 in Franklin County, and was thus enrolled among the serviceable citizens before Ohio became a state. He and his son Nelson spent most of their lives as farmers in Franklin County.

The Case family, in Doctor Smith's maternal ancestry, were New England people. They were members of a large colony that moved to Ohio 120 years ago and laid out the town of Worthington near Columbus. Of their lands they set aside a half section to be used for educational purposes, and this land was included in the corporation of the village. Doctor Smith's mother was a daughter of Alvin Case and a granddaughter of Orlando Case. Both were farmers and merchants and many others of the family were mechanics. A high degree of inventive skill has always characterized the varied members of the Case family. They discovered and developed the process of "case hardening of steel." One of the Cases also invented the process of roller manufacturing of corn meal now universally used.

After the marriage of Jasper Case he spent his life on or near the old homestead in Franklin County, where he died in 1907 at the age of seventy-four. The widowed mother is still living at the age of seventy-five in Perry Township of Franklin County, and is still in vigorous health. Eight of her brothers and sisters are still living, all married and have children of their own. The average age of these people is about seventy. Doctor Smith's mother was fifth in a family of ten children. The greater number of the Case family were adherents of the Methodist Church. The Smiths as a rule have been republicans in politics. Doctor Smith was the second son and third child in a family of ten children, eight of whom are still living.

Jasper Smith was a fighting soldier of the Union during the Civil war.

He first enlisted in the Forty-sixth Ohio Infantry and was in service until the battle of Shiloh, where he was taken ill and sent home on a furlough. When sufficiently recovered he rejoined the One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Ohio Infantry and was in service until the close of the war. During his first enlistment he was orderly sergeant and during the second was quartermaster sergeant.

Doctor Smith married at Decatur Miss Martha D. Cline. She was born in Union Township of Adams County October 13, 1870, and was well reared and educated and before her marriage was a teacher. They have three children: Lucile O., Genevieve I. and Lowell C. Lucile graduated from the Decatur High School in 1915 and is now teaching her third consecutive term. Genevieve is a senior in the local high school and was born September 12, 1900. Lowell is in the seventh grade of the local schools. Doctor and Mrs. Smith are members of the Presbyterian Church. He is an independent republican and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

HENRY SCHULTE. As an active member of the well-known firm of Holthouse, Schulte & Company, Henry Schulte, of Decatur, is closely identified with the advancement of the mercantile interests of Adams County, and holds a position of note among the leading business men of his community, being recognized by his associates as a man of integrity and worth. A native of Germany, he was born in Hanover, January 18, 1869, and there spent his early life.

His father, Frederick Schulte, was born in Hunteberg, Germany, which was likewise the birthplace of his wife, whose maiden name was Louisa Snieder. A farmer by occupation, he was employed as a tiller of the soil in the fatherland until after the death of his wife, in 1881. In 1882, accompanied by his three children, Henry, Lena and Mary, and a stepdaughter, he sailed from Bremen on the good ship Elbe, in which he crossed the ocean, landing in New York. Making his way from there to Indiana, he located on a farm in Adams County, where he carried on general farming for many years. Now, at the age of seventy-four years, he is living retired from active labor, making his home with his son Henry, in Decatur. He is a stanch democrat in politics, and a member of the Lutheran Church, to which his children also belong.

A lad of twelve years when he came to Indiana with his father, Henry Schulte completed his studies in the public schools, and as a young man became a clerk in the store of John Eiting & Co., in Decatur. In 1889 Mr. Schulte accepted a position with Peter Holthouse, the leading merchant tailor of Decatur, and proved himself so efficient in a business way that in 1893 he was admitted to the firm as a partner. In 1901, the firm name became Holthouse, Schulte & Company, and the business was greatly enlarged, both in stock and in volume. In February, 1910, the business was incorporated under the same name, with a capital of $10,000, Peter Holthouse being made president, W. P. Schrock, secretary, and Mr. Schulte, treasurer. Mr. Holthouse died in November, 1912, and a short time afterward Harry Helm purchased the Holthouse interest in the business. In 1916, Mr. Schrock sold his interest in the firm, and assumed the management of the A. J. Smith Company's affairs. The firm of Holthouse, Schulte & Company is one of the best known clothing firms in the county, and is carrying on an extensive business, the large and finely-equipped building it occupies, at the corner of Second and Monroe streets, being well stocked with the latest and most approved styles of gentlemen's clothing and haberdashery. As merchant tailors, the firm endeavors to cater to the tastes and needs of all classes of people, and is extensively patronized in the city and the surrounding country.

Mr. Schulte married, in 1895, Emma Starost, who was born in Ohio, of German ancestry, but was brought up in Decatur, where her parents both died. Mr. and Mrs. Schulte have one child, Fred, born in 1906, now attending the parochial school. Mr. Schulte was confirmed in the Lutheran Church, and Mrs. Schulte in the Roman Catholic Church.

Samuel E. Hite. Conspicuous among the active and successful business men who are so ably conducting the mercantile affairs of Adams County is Samuel E. Hite, a well-known groceryman of Decatur, head of the firm of Hite & Andrews, who are located at the corner of Paterson and Winchester streets. The business was established by Mr. Hite in 1900, in a store standing opposite the Erie Depot, and was conducted by him, personally, for seventeen years. Beginning on a small scale, with a limited stock of groceries, Mr. Hite enlarged his operations from time to time, adding each season to his stock a more extensive list of goods, continuing alone until January, 1917.

In January, 1917, Mr. Hite admitted to partnership Morton E. Andrews, who had full charge of the establishment from March 5, of that year, until September 3, 1917, since which time Messrs. Hite and Andrews have conducted the business together, under the firm name of Hite & Andrews. A full line of groceries are carried, the stock being replenished very frequently in order to meet the demands of the large trade which has been built up in Adams and surrounding counties.

Mr. Hite possesses excellent business and financial ability, and has led a busy and active life, being identified with various business organizations. He is a stockholder in the old Adams County Bank; is a stockholder, and a director, in the Citizens Telephone Company; he has stock in the W. H. Hood Company, which has its main house at Portland, Indiana, and branch houses in both Union City and Richmond, this state. He is likewise interested in the Packard Piano Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in the Lincoln Life Insurance Company, of the same city. He has acquired good property in Decatur, owning and occupying a pleasant home on South Third Street, and also owning other residential property.

Mr. Hite married, in Decatur, Phebe Yager, who was born and educated in Decatur, a daughter of Jacob Yager, a citizen of prominence, and an ex-county commissioner. Mr. and Mrs. Hite have two children, Anna Pauline and Charles E., both of whom are attending the public schools of Decatur. Politically Mr. Hite is a firm supporter of the principles of the republican party. Religiously he and his wife are consistent members of the Baptist Church. Fraternally he is a member, and past chancellor, of Decatur Lodge, Knights of Pythias, which he represented in 1917, in the Grand Lodge, at Indianapolis.

Nimrod McCullough of St. Mary's Township is the type of sturdy and intelligent farmer citizen who now more than at any other time in history has a recognized value and indispensability in the scheme of things. Mr. McCullough has spent many long years of earnest work, has utilized the benefits of experience and directed his tasks by intelligence as well as hard work, and is now one of the men in comfortable circumstances in Adams County. His farm is a mile southeast of Pleasant Mills.

Mr. McCullough was born in Hancock County, Ohio, January 15, 1868, a son of Davis and Anna (Murphy) McCullough. The father was born in Knox County, Ohio, in 1834. The grandfather, William McCullough, was a Pennsylvanian, married in that state, and on moving to Knox County settled on a farm where he spent the rest of his years.

His children were James, Benjamin, Samuel, Davis, Thomas and Elizabeth.

Davis McCullough grew up on the old farm in Knox County, Ohio, was educated in the common schools, and after his marriage to Anna Murphy lived in Hancock County until 1869, when the family moved to Adams County, Indiana, locating near Decatur. In 1876 they established a new home near Pleasant Mills, and in that locality Davis McCullough spent his last years. His widow is still living. There were ten children, eight of whom are living at present: Ella, wife of Frank Winans of Decatur; Catherine, wife of Lewis Hammond; Naomi, wife of Lewis Reiker; Nimrod; Jeanette, wife of Lee Conklin of Greentown, Indiana; Anna, wife of Gideon Burnette; Mina, wife of William Herst; and James, who lives near Monroe, Indiana.

The early years of Nimrod McCullough were spent on a farm in Adams County, and his advantages were those of the district schools. He remained at home to the age of twenty-one. On December 24, 1891, he married Mary G. Smith, daughter of William and Mary C. (Fordice) Smith, both natives of Adams County, Indiana. Her father grew up in this county and in the spring of 1864 enlisted in Company G of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry and saw active service as a soldier until the end of the war. He was a prominent republican and for six years served as trustee of St. Mary's Township. Mrs. McCullough was one of three children, the other two dying in infancy. She grew up on the farm where she now lives and was educated both in the schools at Pleasant Mills and in the Methodist College at Fort Wayne. Mrs. McCullough has a notable record as a teacher and hundreds of men and women acknowledge their gratitude to her for the worthy influences that surrounded their early lives. She began teaching in 1888 and altogether has taught twenty-four terms. She still has charge of the home school in District No. 6, St. Mary's Township. Mrs. McCullough is the mother of five children, and has given much of her time to their rearing and training. William, the oldest, is a graduate of the common schools and married Hazel Campbell; Charles also graduated from the common schools and the Decatur High School and married Thelma Patterson. Amy, when she graduated from the common schools at the age of fourteen had the highest grade of any pupil in the county. Benjamin and Nimrod, Jr., are still students in the common schools. The family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant Mills, and Mr. McCullough votes as a republican. The country home of the McCulloughs comprises a farm of sixty-five acres, well cultivated, in a high state of improvement, and with all the comforts that go with rural life in these modern times.

O. J. Suman. This is a brief outline of the family and career of a man who has distinctively made good in the agricultural life of Adams County. Mr. Suman lives on his fine farm in St. Mary's Township, on Route No. 1 from Pleasant Mills. His work and his farm speak for themselves as evidence of his good management and ability. Most of his prosperity he has acquired by his own efforts. Mr. Suman has always been an industrious worker and in later years his increased experience and intelligence have brought bigger results with less manual toil.

Mr. Suman was born in Darke County, Ohio, March 27, 1861, son of George and Susanna (Longman) Suman. George Suman was born in Frederick County, Maryland, December 11, 1822, and died July 28, 1893. He married in his native county October 13, 1842, Miss Susanna Longman, who was born in the same locality. In 1853 they came west

to Darke County, Ohio, and in the fall of 1886 moved to Indiana, locating near Portland. George Suman and wife became the parents of fourteen children, nine sons and five daughters: Jacob, deceased; Catherine, wife of Jacob Whittaker; Jane, wife of William Reichard; Susan, who died at the age of two years; Emanuel and Josiah, twins, both still living, the former at Portland, Indiana, and the latter at North English, Iowa; George, Jr., who is a graduate of the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso in both the scientific and classical courses and is now a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wesley of Chicago; Isaiah and David, both deceased; O. J.; Martha, wife of Charles Brown, both deceased; Florence, widow of Lyman Allen of Kansas City, Kansas; and Dawson of Decatur.

Mr. O. J. Suman grew up on the farm and had only the advantages of the common schools to fit him for his career. He lived at home until twenty-one and on March 27, 1883, married Miss Drusilla Brown. Mrs. Suman was born in Miami County, Ohio, November 21, 1865, daughter of L. D. and Phoebe (Hayworth) Brown. Her father was born in Miami County, October 8, 1839, and married Phoebe Hayworth on October 11, 1857. They settled on a farm in Miami County, but in 1878 moved to Darke County and from there in 1900 came to Pleasant Mills in Adams County, Indiana. L. D. Brown is still a resident of Pleasant Mills and is in the grocery business. For forty years he was a minister of the New Light Church. Politically he is a democrat. Of the eight children born to L. D. Brown and wife three are still living: Mrs. Drusilla Suman; Ollie, wife of George Mann of Darke County; and Ora A., who married Verne Watson of Forty Wayne, Indiana. Drusilla Brown grew up in Darke County, was educated in the public schools and married there. In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Suman moved from Darke County to Adams County, Indiana, and has since lived in section 29 of St. Mary's Township. Mr. Suman has a forty-acre farm and is also one of the leading citizens of St. Mary's Township. He was elected and served six years as township trustee.

Mr. and Mrs. Suman had only one child, a daughter, who died February 24, 1892. Without children of their own they have made their home a refuge for a number of young people and in the kindness of their hearts have reared and adopted three children, and at different times have had altogether eleven children under their care and direction. Their three adopted children were named Harry, Zona and Mary Suman, all of whom are graduated from the common schools. Harry Suman married Bessie Drummond of Decatur; Zona became the wife of Floyd Acker of Decatur; and Mary is the wife of Russell Wells of Blue Creek Township. Mr. Suman is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Decatur and in politics is a republican.

Philip Gephart has proved himself one of the hustling and energetic citizens of Adams County and starting out with little capital and only such experience as he had acquired on his father's farm he has developed two or three tracts of fine farm land, has provided a valuable country home for himself and family, and at different times has proved his good judgment and ability in other business affairs. Mr. Gephart's farm is on Rural Route No. 1 out of Pleasant Mills in St. Mary's Township.

He was born in St. Mary's Township April 26, 1854, son of Henry and Mary E. (Winegar) Gephart. His parents were both born in Hamburg, Germany, grew up there, married, and one son was born to them in the old country. In 1849 when thousands of Germans were leaving the fatherland to identify themselves with the land of liberty they also emigrated and settled in Ohio and from there came to Adams County,

Indiana, and settled in the woods near Decatur, where the father bought forty acres in St. Mary's Township. Later he bought eighty acres in Van Wert County, Ohio. He died in Ohio and his wife in Indiana. Of their nine children, seven are still living: Christ C. of Ohio; Adam of St. Mary's Township; Caroline, wife of Fred Spheuler; John of Van Wert County; Margaret, wife of John Flager; Elizabeth, wife of John Helm; and Philip.

Philip Gephart grew up in Adams County, attended the district schools and worked at home, and was well qualified by early training for the life of industry he has followed since his marriage.

July 31, 1880, Mr. Gephart married Carrie Blayney. She was born in St. Mary's Township August 31, 1859, and grew up in that rural district and had a common school education. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gephart rented land in St. Mary's Township for a time. They finally bought eighty acres for $1,975. It was their home and the scene of his able management as a farmer for twenty-eight years, at the end of which time they sold the land and its improvements for $10,500, more than five times what they had paid for it. Mr. Gephart then invested in his present farm which also contains eighty acres. For a time he was active in the real estate business and did much leasing of land for oil development.

Eight children were born to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gephart, five of whom reached maturity, but only two are now living: Ida A. is the wife of James Dague of Washington Township; and True P., born October 5, 1897, married Charlotte A. Thatcher and has a daughter, Ellen P. The deceased children are John George, Franklin, Harry Allen, Otho L., and two who died in infancy. Mr. Gephart is a democrat in politics.

Henry E. Keller, M. D. · An able and successful physician and surgeon of Adams County, Henry E. Keller, M. D., is meeting with flattering results in the exercise of his profession, his reputation for skill in the diagnosis and treatment of disease having won for him an extensive and remunerative patronage in Decatur, where his office is located, and in the surrounding country. His office is, without doubt, one of the finest equipped of any in the county, enabling him to use the most approved scientific methods in his work. In 1897, when X-ray machines were just coming into use, he installed one in his office, and ten years later he put in another one. He has also a static machine; an instrument for ascertaining the blood pressure in case of disturbance in the arterial system; and various other up-to-date equipments. The doctor has a large general practice, and is a skilful surgeon doing many minor operations. He is a physician of the old school and new schooling, keeping well abreast of the times in everything pertaining to his profession. A native of Indiana, he was born, July 31, 1873, in Pulaski County, of French and German ancestry, his paternal grandparents having been born in Alsace-Lorraine. Emigrating to the United States, they lived for awhile in Seneca County, Ohio, from there moving to Pulaski County, Indiana, where they spent their remaining years, the grandfather dying at the age of eighty-six years, and the grandmother when eighty-five years old.

John M. Keller, the doctor's father, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, in 1842, and two years later was brought by his parents to America. He was educated in the public schools of Ohio and Indiana, and when ready to establish a home for himself located in Pulaski County. He married Elizabeth Snyder, who was born, in 1851, in Berlin, Germany, a daughter of John and Theresa Snyder, who came with their family to this country in 1863, being nine weeks crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel. They

settled in Pulaski County, Indiana, west of Monterey, and on the farm they improved spent their remaining days, Mr. Snyder passing away at the age of sixty-five years, and Mrs. Snyder living to the age of eighty-six years. The doctor's grandparents on both sides of the house were Catholics in religion, and democrats in politics.

One of a family of five children, one daughter and four sons, Henry E. Keller received excellent educational advantages, and in preparing himself for a professional career was graduated from a medical college in Indianapolis. Locating in Decatur April 24, 1894, Doctor Keller has practiced continually here since, his professional calls taking him over a large part of Eastern Indiana and Western Ohio, in addition to which he has a large office practice.

Doctor Keller married Anna C. Omlor, who was born, August 13, 1869, in Decatur, and was educated in the parochial school of Saint Mary's Parish. Five children have brightened the union of Doctor and Mrs. Keller, namely: Lorine E., born August 13, 1895, was educated in the local parochial school, and is now chief operator in the telephone office: Raymond C., born August 2, 1897, was graduated from St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, and is now engaged in the jewelry business in Decatur; Beatrice C., born May 2, 1900, is a student in the International Business College; James died in infancy; and Mildred, born September 1, 1904, is attending a parochial school in Decatur.

The doctor is a republican in politics, and for eight years served as health officer. Religiously he and his family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Doctor Keller is a charter member of Decatur Council, Knights of Columbus.

The First National Bank of Decatur has been an institution in Adams County over thirty years. The men responsible for its success and its administrative management are noted in the following list of its officers:

Presidents: Dr. Thomas T. Dorwin, 1883-1893; P. W. Smith, 1893-—. Vice presidents: Henry Dierkes, 1883-1887; P. W. Smith, 1887-1893; Daniel Weldy, 1893-1895; J. B. Holthause, 1895-1899; and W. A. Kuebler, 1899-—. Cashiers: Gus Kalke, 1883-86; Henry Oberwagner, 1886-1887; R. S. Peterson, 1887-1894; and C. A. Dugan, 1894-—. Assistant cashiers: R. P. Dorwin, 1886-1887; J. S. Peterson, 1892-1894; E. X. Ehinger, 1894-1906; T. J. Durkin, 1907-1911; F. W. Jaebker, 1908—; and T. F. Graliker, 1917-—.

The bank was organized in 1883 by thirty of the most substantial citizens of Adams County and of Delphos, Ohio, with a capital of $50,000, which was increased to meet the business demands in 1895 to $100,000. The First National Bank stands out as an example of the high class business institution of its founders. It has paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars to its depositors in interest, over $250,000 in dividends to its share holders and has helped thousands of farmers and business men on the road to prosperity.

Due to the fact that there have been but few changes in its board and its officers a continuous policy of helpfulness to the community has been followed and today after thirty-four years of existence the names of its first customers appear on its books—sons, grandsons—and this bank is proud of its record in that it has been so much a factor in the affairs of Adams County.

Among those who have served on its board for years were T. T. Dorwin, first president, leading physician and citizen; Henry Dierks, vice president, wealthy and influential pioneer, as were Daniel Weldy, J. H. Hohbrock, J. B. Holthause, M. F. Rice. Among its prominent share-

holders were Frederick Bleeke, Henry Peters, Chris Schamerloh, John Dirkson.

The present board of directors has served for many years and it would be a difficult matter to select better, abler equipped men to deal with the local financial problems. Daniel Sprang, Dymis Schmitl, W. A. Kuebler, Dr. J. W. Vizard, E. C. Bleeke, P. W. Smuh and C. A. Dugan comprise the present board of directors.

P. W. Smith for over thirty years a shareholder and director and since 1893 president, is an ideal officer—is engaged in many enterprises, has the soundest judgment and is kindly disposed to his fellow men.

For nearly twenty-five years the active management of the bank has been in the hands of Charles A. Dugan, whose efforts to make one of the best banks possible have been ably seconded by his directors and office force—F. W. Jaebker, who has been connected with the First National as bookkeeper, teller and assistant cashier; T. F. Graliker, teller and assistant cashier for seven years; Mrs. Rose Christen and Frances Cole, bookkeepers, and Earl Blackburn, collector.

Irvin Brandyberry. An active merchant, Irvin Brandyberry, of the firm of Teeple, Brandyberry & Peterson, at Decatur, is identified with one of the best-known and most popular clothing houses of the county, and for many years has been a moving spirit in the management of public affairs. A son of the late Jesse Brandyberry, he was born in Washington Township, Adams County, Indiana, October 3, 1866, of pioneer stock.

Jesse Brandyberry was born and educated in Carroll County, Ohio, and lived there until young manhood, coming to Indiana in search of a favorable location. Settling in Adams County, he took up a tract of virgin land in Washington Township, paying therefor the Government price. Clearing an opening in the forest, he built a log cabin for himself and wife, and by dint of sturdy labor improved a good farm. A few years later, he moved to a farm in St. Mary's Township, and there his wife died, in 1889, at the age of fifty-six years. On retiring from active pursuits, he moved to Decatur, where his death occurred, in 1905, at the good old age of seventy-seven years. He was a democrat in politics, and he and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The maiden name of his wife was Catherine Stults. Of the children born of their union, the following named are living: Mary E., wife of S. B. Fordyce, of Decatur, has one child, Margaret, wife of Charles D. Teeple, member of the firm of Teeple, Brandyberry & Peterson; Ida, wife of H. A. Hartman, superintendent of the public schools of Marion, Ohio, has four sons and one daughter; Irvin, with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; and Noah, a retired farmer at Boulder, Colorado, is married.

Irvin Brandyberry was brought up on the old homestead in Washington Township, where, after his graduation from the East Indiana Normal School, in Portland, he began his career as a teacher, having charge of the school in District No. 6. He subsequently entered the normal school at Angola, Indiana, as a pupil-teacher, and there completed his early education. Becoming somewhat prominent in public affairs, he was appointed deputy county auditor under W. H. H. France, and at the death of Mr. France, Mr. Brandyberry was appointed to fill out the unexpired term. Mr. Brandyberry was then elected county superintendent of public schools, and filled the position so ably and satisfactorily that he was continued in that office for nine consecutive years.

In September, 1907, Mr. Brandyberry, in company with Messrs. Teeple and Peterson, established himself in the clothing business at the

corner of Second and Main streets, Decatur, where, in a building 22 feet by 100 feet, with a basement for storing goods, the firm have ample room for caring for the large business now carried on, the stock of men's and boys' clothing, and furnishings.

Mr. Brandyberry married, in Decatur, Maggie Sweigart, who was graduated from the Decatur High School in 1889, and at the time of her marriage was one of its successful teachers in Willshire, Ohio. She was born in Ohio, and came to Decatur with her parents, neither of whom are now living. She has two brothers, namely: Samuel, living in Portland, Indiana, is married, and has two sons and a daughter; and Herman A., a farmer in Boulder, Colorado, is married, and has a son and a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Brandyberry have two children, Neva and Geraldine. Neva was graduated from the Decatur High School with the class of 1912, and after taking special studies in Terre Haute and Bloomington educational institutions accepted her present position as a teacher in the Decatur schools, in the Riley Building of the city. Geraldine attends the Decatur High School, being a member of the class of 1918. Mr. Brandyberry has ever evinced an intelligent interest in educational matters, and for three years served as a member of the local school board. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Henry Marbaugh is one of the leading citizens and successful farmers of Blue Creek Township in Adams County, his home being in the Pleasant Mills locality. He located on his farm of sixty acres there May 10, 1908. He has good soil, first class buildings, and has become a factor of importance in that prosperous agricultural community.

Mr. Marbaugh was born in Mercer County, Ohio, May 31, 1862, of an old and well known family of that section. His parents were Gottlieb and Cordelia (Cook) Marbaugh, the latter a native of Mercer County. Gottlieb Marbaugh and Cordelia Cook were married in Ohio and the Mary Marbaugh, and on coming to America settled in Ohio and lived in Tuscarawas County of that state until his death on September 27, 1910. Gottlieb Marbaugh and Cordelia Cook were married in Ohio and the latter is still living. Their children were: Henry; John; Edward; Emma; Frederick; Amos, who was buried November 28, 1917; Anna, deceased; and James.

On January 5, 1888, Mr. Marbaugh married Margaret Meyers, daughter of Henry and Barbara (Shrank) Meyers, of Adams County, Indiana. Her parents are both now deceased. Mrs. Marbaugh's brothers and sisters were: Emma, Lena, George, Lewis, Alice, Frederick, Henry and William, all deceased except Emma, Lena and George. Mr. and Mrs. Marbaugh have a family of eight children: Aldah, born February 10, 1889, married Allen Wolf, of Adams County, and has one child, Herman; Francis, born October 22, 1890, married Margaret Lynch, of Adams County, and has one child, Vern de Loyd; Clara, born October 8, 1892, wife of Ralph Stutler, of Mercer County, Ohio; Floyd, born October 18, 1894, now in the United States Army stationed at Camp Taylor; Fred, born February 27, 1897; Mary, born April 28, 1900, now deceased; Annie, born April 26, 1903; and Naomi, born July 2, 1905. The children have all received good advantages in the local public schools.

Mr. Marbaugh himself was educated in the public schools of Mercer and Van Wert counties, Ohio. Mrs. Marbaugh was educated in Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Marbaugh are members of the Progressive Brethren Church and he is a republican in politics.

WILLIAM J. HUNT. A capable and industrious young man, full of vim, William J. Hunt, of Adams County, is carrying on general farming with unquestioned ability and success, during the comparatively short time that he has occupied his homestead in Blue Creek Township having increased its agricultural and financial value. A native of Indiana, he was born, September 23, 1886, in Lancaster Township, Wells County, where his earlier life was spent.

His father, Alexander Hunt, was born and bred in Ohio. As a young man he migrated to Indiana, settling first in Huntington County, but later buying land in Lancaster Township, Wells County, where he cleared and improved the excellent farming estate on which he has since lived and labored, being a well-known member of the farming community. He married Rachael Triplett, a native of Randolph County, Indiana, and to them eight children have been born, as follows: Nora, James, Oscar, Agnes, Alexander, Theodore, William J., and Millie.

Obtaining his early education in the common schools of his native county, William J. Hunt acquired a practical knowledge of general husbandry on the home farm, remaining beneath the parental roof-tree until coming to Blue Creek Township, in the spring of 1915. He then bought his present farm of eighty acres, and in its improvement has labored with characteristic energy and perseverance, its thrifty appearance showing that he takes pride in his chosen occupation. Mr. Hunt's land is under a good state of culture, and well supplied with all the necessary machinery and buildings for facilitating the otherwise slow and tedious work of a farmer.

Mr. Hunt married, November 12, 1913, Laura Thompson, a native of Allen County, Indiana. Her father, William Thompson, a well-known and prosperous agriculturist of Allen County, Indiana, where he has a farm of 130 acres, married Katherine Meriden, and to them five children have been born, Mrs. Hunt and four others, Harry, George, Letta and Daisy. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are the parents of two children, namely: Byrl, born November 27, 1914; and Dale W., born November 25, 1916. Fraternally Mr. Hunt is a member of Tocsin Lodge No. 468, Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a firm supporter of the principles of the democratic party.

ALBERT SHELL. Through more than sixty-five years of residence members of the Shell family have accomplished a great deal for the development and improvement of Adams County. Mr. Albert Shell is an honored veteran of the Civil war and for the past half century has been one of the leading farmers of the county. His farm is a well developed place of 129 acres located five and a half miles southeast of Decatur, in St. Mary's Township.

Mr. Shell was born in Wayne County, Ohio, September 25, 1847, a son of John and Nancy (Kariger) Shell. John Shell was a son of Adam and Mary Shell, both born in Germany and accompanying their respective families to the United States. They married and first lived in Pennsylvania and afterwards settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and from there moved to Stark County in that state, where they spent the rest of their days. Adam and Mary Shell had four sons and three daughters: George, Adam, John, Henry, Elizabeth, Mary and Catherine.

John Shell was reared in Ohio, married in that state, and after several years of residence in Stark County moved to Wayne County, and from there came to Indiana in 1852, locating near Pleasant Mills. In this community his sturdy efforts resulted in the building of a home and the clearing of much of the wild land, and he and his wife spent their

last years in a comfortable prosperity. They were active members of the United Brethren Church. Of their twelve children seven grew to maturity and two are still living: Cordelia, widow of Hugh Bay, who was a soldier in the Union Army and gave his life to his country in the battle of Nashville; and Albert.

Albert Shell was five years old when the family came to Adams County. While attaining the strength of manhood he worked with his father in clearing and cultivating the land, and attended the public schools. On March 4, 1864, at the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, and saw much hard service during the last year of the war. He was at the battle of Nashville and did not receive his honorable discharge until December, 1865. Returning home from the war he took up farming in Adams County and has continued it steadily to the present time.

March 15, 1873, Mr. Shell married Margaret Koos. Mrs. Shell was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, March 23, 1853, and came with her parents to Adams County. Mr. and Mrs. Shell enjoyed a happy married life of nearly forty-five years. She passed away May 10, 1917. Two years after his marriage Mr. Shell located on the farm that he still owns and occupies. He and his wife had eight children, seven of whom reached maturity: Anna M., wife of Pierce Worklinger; Jacob, of Van Wert County, Ohio; Clara E., wife of James McCullough; Cora, wife of Clarence Broadbeck; Benjamin, a resident of Bobo; Ella, wife of Samuel Finkhouse; and Harvey I., who lives at home with his father, and John, who is deceased. The family are members of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Shell is an honored member of Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic, at Decatur. In politics he has always voted the republican ticket.

William W. Miller has given many years of an industrious and honorable career to the business of farming in St. Mary's Township, where he is one of the most esteemed residents. Not only his work as a farmer and stockman but his attitude on questions of public concern and his citizenship has commended him to the favor of all the people in this community.

Mr. Miller has spent most of his life in Adams County, but was born in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1872, son of James and Mary (Reinhardt) Miller. His parents were natives of the same county and state, were married there, lived on a farm and in 1875 moved to Van Wert County, Ohio, where they continued their residence for five years and in 1880 came into St. Mary's Township of Adams County, locating in section 3. This was their home throughout the remaining years of their worthy lives. The father died in 1912 and the mother in 1917. Both were active members of Calvary Church of the Evangelical Association, and the father was long one of the church trustees. In politics he became a republican at the time of the Blaine campaign of 1884. There were eight children in the family, seven living: Charles A., a step-son; Emma, wife of Emanuel Hart, of Union Township; Sudie, wife of J. J. Good, of Marion, Ohio; Elmore, of Van Wert County; Cora, wife of Albert Springer, of Marion, Ohio; William W.; and Ed, of Preble Township, of Adams County; Sadie, deceased; Dillie, wife of Andrew Hill, of Marion, Ohio.

William W. Miller spent his boyhood days chiefly on a farm in Adams County, and acquired his education by attending the district schools of the locality. At the age of twenty-one he left home and for four years was an employe by the month of C. H. Snyder in Van Wert County, Ohio. He also worked for two years for F. M. Lash, of Craw-

ford County, Ohio. About that time Mr. Miller married Miss Ettie L. Springer and then bought and located on a farm in Mercer County, Ohio, living there five years. He sold out and returning to his native county bought the old homestead of eighty acres in St. Mary's Township. At the present time he also owns fifty acres in Union Township adjoining. Most of his property and success has come as a result of Mr. Miller's unaided efforts. He has put his land in splendid condition, is an intelligent farmer, and much of his money and his reputation among the farmers of this region is based upon his success as a breeder of Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle. He has done probably more in the breeding of hogs than any other man in St. Mary's Township.

Mr. Miller has three sons: Roland, a graduate of the common schools; Lee, aged thirteen; and Royal, aged ten. Mr. Miller votes the republican ticket.

Otto Bleeke. The experiences and fortunes of the Bleeke family have been the subject of much of the interesting history connected with Union Township in Adams County. In former publications the name has frequently appeared erroneously as Blakey. The old homestead in that township, seven miles northeast of Decatur and on Rural Route No. 8, is now occupied by Mr. Otto Bleeke, who was born there May 25, 1876.

His grandfather John H. Bleeke was born in Prussia, Germany, November 3, 1797, and died March 8, 1883. He married Christina Schwer, who was born in Prussia May 11, 1798, and died March 6, 1869. It was in the fall of 1834 that John H. Bleeke started for the New World alone and the following year he was joined by his wife and six children. They landed at Baltimore and joined the father in West Virginia, where he was working as a farm hand. Two years later they moved to Cincinnati and during the three and a half years spent in that city practically all members of the family were doing something to contribute to the upkeep of the home.

In the fall of 1838 John H. Bleeke came to Adams County, Indiana, and after borrowing some money from a friend entered the northwest quarter of section 21 in Union Township. Having made this provision for a future home he returned to Cincinnati and remained until the fall of 1840, when with one horse and an ox team and accompanied by his family he came over roads that were almost impassable toward Adams County. Some of the household goods had to be abandoned at New Bremen, Ohio. A rude cart was substituted for the wagon, and with this equipage they journeyed on, camping by the roadside at night, and reached their new home November 27th. The wagon cover was stretched over some poles to make a tent for their first shelter and it was not until the day before Christmas that they moved into the rough log house which had neither roof nor floor. The house with subsequent improvements and changes served the family as a residence until 1852, when a newer and better home was provided.

Christian F. Bleeke, son of John H. and father of Otto Bleeke, was born in Prussia May 7, 1821, and was fourteen years old when his parents came to America. He was a young man able to do a man's work in developing the pioneer home in Adams County and in 1852 he built the substantial home where his parents spent the rest of their years. He was one of the most prosperous and substantial men of the county, developed a fine farm of about 400 acres in section 21, and lived there until his death March 10, 1898. In 1849 he married Louisa Falsing, who was born in Prussia in 1833 and was brought to America in 1842. She died in 1856. In 1858 Christian Bleeke married Mary F. Rupp,

who was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in 1833, daughter of George and Amanda Rupp. Mary Rupp Bleeke died November 26, 1897. By his first wife Christian Bleeke had three children: Mary, Sophia and John H. There were ten children of the second marriage: Eliza, Charles, Frederick, Martin, Theodore, Edward, Matilda, Otto and two who died comparatively young, Christian and Christine.

Mr. Otto Bleeke grew up in the home of his parents, was educated in parochial and public schools, and remaining at home he took an active part in the management of the farm and finally bought the old homestead of 155 acres, which he successfully cultivates and uses as the basis of his career of usefulness in the county.

On April 19, 1900, Mr. Bleeke married Amelia Steele. She was born in Kirkland Township of Adams County April 11, 1882, a daughter of James M. and Catherine (Breiner) Steele. Mrs. Bleeke was reared in Preble Township of Adams County until the age of twelve, when her parents removed to Van Wert County, Ohio, and she lived there until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bleeke had eight children: Erna M., Eliza, Grover C., Gretchen, Morris, Raymond, Nora and Vera. The family are members of the German Lutheran faith and attend Emanuel Church in Union Township. Mr. Bleeke is one of the active supporters of that church. In politics he is a democrat.

Jay A. Cline. A resident of Adams County all his life, where his pioneer grandfather settled nearly eighty years ago, Jay A. Cline in his own career has been a representative of the progressive rural citizenship of Root Township, and still owns a model farm in that locality, but recently retired from its activities and enjoys the comforts of a good town home at Ninth and Jackson streets in Decatur.

His ancestors for several generations lived in the State of Pennsylvania. His grandfather Jacob Cline, whose name deserves a high place among the pioneers of Adams County, was born near Donegal, Pennsylvania, about 100 years ago. In his native state he married Barbara Robinson, of another Pennsylvania family. Immediately after their marriage they moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio. While living there two children were born to them, Robert and John R. When John, who was born in 1837, was a small infant, his parents loaded their household possessions upon a wagon, and with ox and horse teams crossed the entire stretch of country to Northeastern Indiana. It required many days of hard travel to surpass the difficulties of the rough highways of that day, but finally they arrived in section 14 of Root Township, where Jacob Cline secured his 160 acres of land direct from the Government. A house of logs was constructed in the northwest quarter of section 14, and for several years the family put up with the primitive conditions of this section, living on corn bread and wild meat and enjoying limited social contact with their few neighbors. Jacob Cline had a resolute purpose and physical strength sufficient to carry out his plans as a homemaker in that wild region, and in the course of time he had most of his 160 acres under the plow. He and his wife spent their last years in comfort and retirement. Besides making a home they did much to build up and support the First Methodist Episcopal Church in their section. The first church edifice was erected in the northeast quarter of section 21 and was known as the Alpha Methodist Church, of which Jacob Cline was a class leader for many years. The old homestead descended to his oldest son Robert, and Robert's widow, Eliza, now has a life tenancy in this property but she herself lives on Mercer Avenue in Decatur with her daughter Mrs. Brokaw.

John R. Cline, father of Jay A. Cline, grew up from early childhood

in Adams County, and as a boy early began to assist his father in the strenuous labors of the home farm. On reaching his maturity his father gave him forty acres in section 14. This was completely uncleared, and he had to cut away a number of trees and brush before he had a spot on which to erect his log cabin home. He also set out an orchard, and to this place of humble comforts he brought his bride when he married at the age of twenty-four. Her maiden name was Agnes Peoples, and she was born in Carroll County, Ohio, daughter of Robert and Margaret (Redinghouse) Peoples, natives of the same county, where they married and where two children were born to them, Elizabeth and Agnes. Agnes was born in 1839 and a few years later the family came with horse and ox teams to Adams County, Indiana. After a journey of many days they located on a tract of Government land in Root Township on section 11, where her father continued his work as a homemaker until his death. When he was forty-seven years of age while cleaning out a well on his farm he was attacked by the "damps" and died before he could be rescued. He was a highly esteemed and useful citizen of the community, a democrat and a member of the United Brethren Church. His widow survived him many years and passed away in 1886. Only two children of Robert Peoples and wife survive, Mrs. John R. Cline and John R. Peoples, the latter a resident of North Dakota. Mrs. Cline is now seventy-nine years of age and lives with her son Jay A. She is an invalid. She is active in the United Brethren Church as was her husband, and in politics he was a democrat.

After they had married John R. Cline and wife lived on their farm in Root Township and after clearing up their original forty acres sold it and bought other lands which they improved and cultivated until they retired and moved to Decatur.

Jay A. Cline was one of two children. His only brother Amacy died at the age of seven years. Jay A. Cline was born in the old log cabin on his father's original forty-acre farm on January 3, 1865. He grew up there, and as a boy attended the old Aber schoolhouse in section 23 of Root Township. He mastered the fundamental branches of learning and with the training he received on the home farm he was well equipped for the practical duties of life. At the death of his father he succeeded to the old homestead, and thus acquired 120 acres of well improved land, on which he continued to make betterments and from which he derived a steady source of income which now constitutes a modest competency and which in March, 1917, enabled him to retire and move to Decatur. Mr. Cline was for several years assessor of his home township.

On December 22, 1899, he was married in Madison Township of Allen County. Mrs. Cline was born October 6, 1864, grew up and received her education in Allen County and also at Fort Wayne, and prior to her marriage was a very popular teacher of that locality, teaching altogether thirteen terms. The oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Cline is John A. Cline, who is employed in the Van Camp condensary at Bryan, Ohio, and married Cleo Nidlinger, of Union Township, Adams County. Harold A., the second child, was born April 29, 1897, is a graduate of the Decatur High School, and is now foreman of the Cocola Bottling Works at Fort Wayne. The youngest of the family is Clyde, who was born March 2, 1907, and is now in the fifth grade of the public schools at Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Cline are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and politically he affiliates with the democratic party.

John T. Jones has for many years been an important factor in the life and affairs of Jackson Township. Besides managing a farm he has furnished facilities to a large territory as a merchant, mill man and

MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. JONES

competent mechanic, and throughout that section of Wells County his name is spoken with respect and esteem that it deserves.

Mr. Jones was born in Salamonie Township of Huntington County, Indiana, February 21, 1844, a son of Ezekiel and Esther (Taylor) Jones, and a grandson of Daniel Jones. This branch of the Jones family has been known since earliest pioneer times, not only in Huntington but also in Wells counties. Daniel Jones was a native of Pennsylvania, lived in Ohio, and from there moved to Jackson Township in Wells County. Ezekiel Jones spent his active years as a farmer in Salamonie Township of Huntington County. The family have always been identified either with the Methodist Episcopal or the Methodist Protestant church. Ezekiel Jones and wife had the following children: Susan, Daniel, Esther E., Nancy, John T., Emily, Oma, Eurilla, Henry and Morris O.

Mr. John T. Jones spent his early life on a farm a mile and a half east of Warren. He had limited advantages in school, and lived at home until he was twenty-one since which time he has spent most of his years in Wells County. In July, 1866, Mr. Jones married Miss Susan Tomlison. She was born near Muncie, Indiana, and came to Jackson Township of Wells County during the Civil war. After his marriage Mr. Jones located in Wells County, but subsequently lived for eight years in Huntington County. His permanent home has been in Jackson Township, where he now owns 105 acres, constituting an excellent farm, and in connection with its management conducts a store, feed mill and blacksmith shop.

Mr. Jones' first wife died leaving four children, Vinton, Jefferson, Ella, and Pearl. On March 22, 1885, he married Mrs. Amanda M. (Duckwall) Williamson, widow of Aaron Williamson. She had two children by her first marriage, Amy, deceased, and Charles, living in Dilman, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two children, Carrie and Ira. The family are members of the Methodist Protestant Church, and Mr. Jones has served it as trustee and has always been active in church affairs. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Warren, and is a democratic voter. For a time he filled the office of justice of the peace in Blackford County.

James M. Foreman. For fifty years the name Foreman has had honorable associations with Adams County, especially with Blue Creek Township, where two generations of the family have left the impress of their industry and their good management, and their influence for community upbuilding.

The founder of the family here was the late Joseph Foreman, who died at his home in Blue Creek Township in 1884. He was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1817, and at the age of four years his parents removed to Butler County, Ohio. In that section of the Buckeye State he had his home until 1849, when he came to Indiana. In 1857 he brought his family to Adams County and bought a tract of land which by subsequent additions he increased to an estate of over 700 acres, all of it representing his labor and sound judgment. He began life poor, and at the time of his death was one of the substantial men of Adams County.

In Henry County, Indiana, in 1850, Joseph Foreman married Rebecca Crandall, who was born in Clark County, Ohio, but was reared in Indiana. Joseph Foreman and wife had eleven children and those to reach mature years were Elsie A., Amos, Robert L., Sarah M., James M., Frank, Seymour, Edward L., and Webster.

James M. Foreman, who still owns part of his father's old estate and is one of the enterprising men of Blue Creek Township, was born in that

township July 16, 1863. It is a locality endeared to him by many associations from earliest boyhood to the present time, and by his own life has expressed its energies and has contributed to his own success and to the uplift of the community. He was educated in the district schools and was a factor on the home farm until his father's death, which occurred when he was twenty-one years of age. He afterwards acquired a part of the old homestead, and now owns 120 acres, his home being on Rural Route No. 2 out of Berne. He is a general farmer, handling good grades of livestock, and has something more than a local reputation as a breeder of registered Shropshire sheep. In politics Mr. Foreman is a democrat and has done much to build up and maintain the party in his locality. He is candidate for township trustee. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On May 18, 1886, Mr. Foreman married Miss Miranda Bebout, who was born in Jefferson Township of Adams County August 17, 1866, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Fisher) Bebout. She was reared in her native township and was educated in the common schools. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Foreman began their career on eighty acres of land, which he subsequently increased by further purchases from the estate. He and his wife have six children: Huldah O., wife of Chauncey Sipe; Manley J. married Lessie O. Tieters; Jesse F., unmarried and living at home; Arlie, who married Ferne Teeters and lives in Jefferson Township; True D., and Ethel M., at home.

Walter Perry Johnson. One of the prominent farmers of Adams County, Walter Perry Johnson for the past thirty years or more has given his time and attention to the development of a good farm and to the raising of crops and breeding of livestock at his home a mile east of Pleasant Mills on Rural Route No. 6 out of Decatur. He is a citizen whose material circumstances have improved steadily with the passing years, and who at the same time has gained the esteem of his community for his good judgment and his public spirit in all matters affecting the common weal.

Mr. Johnson was born in Van Wert County October 8, 1870, a son of Wilson and Calinda (Mills) Johnson. His father was born December 12, 1840, and his mother April 18, 1846. They married in Ohio July 30, 1868. Wilson Johnson gave several years of his young manhood to help put down the rebellion as a soldier in Company A of the Ninety-ninth Volunteer Infantry. After the war he engaged in merchandising at Willshire, was a successful business man, and died at the comparatively early age of thirty-eight. He had two sons, Walter Perry and John F. The latter is a graduate of the pharmacist department of the Ohio Northern University at Ada, and is now a successful druggist at Fortville, Indiana.

Walter Perry Johnson grew up in Willshire, Ohio, and was only eight years old when his father died. He graduated from high school there and also attended college at Valparaiso, Indiana. He went to work in the grist mill owned by the family in Willshire, and had active management of the mill property for three years. He then moved to Adams County, Indiana, and in February, 1895, located at his present home.

March 16, 1893, Mr. Johnson married Lulu Beam. Mrs. Johnson was born in Michigan March 25, 1870, daughter of Jacob Beam, who saw active service as a soldier in the Civil war. Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of the Willshire High School. She was only five years old when her mother died and she grew up in the home of Henry Banta, a dry goods and millinery merchant. She learned the trade of milliner and worked at it until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a large family of eleven children: Helen, Grace, Florence, John and Hester, twins, Edith, Benoit, Harry, Thelma, Dorothy and Mary A. The oldest Helen finished her education in the public and high schools of Willshire and Decatur. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Willshire and Mr. Johnson affiliates there with the Knights of Pythias Lodge, of which he is a charter member, and with Lodge No. 402 of Masons and with the Modern Woodmen of America of Pleasant Mills. He is a republican in politics.

Samuel A. Roop. For upwards of thirty years Samuel A. Roop has been a recognized factor in the farm and community life of St. Mary's Township, close to the Ohio State line. He and his family have a highly cultivated farm of 123 acres, and Mr. Roop has done much in the way of high class livestock. In past years he has made something of a specialty of Barred Rock chickens. His farm is on Rural Route No. 6 out of Decatur.

Mr. Roop is a native of Van Wert County, Ohio, but his birthplace was only two miles southeast of where he now lives. He was born there November 19, 1867, a son of Samuel and Margaret (Frisinger) Roop, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Van Wert County, Ohio. His parents married in Ohio and spent their lives as farmers in that state. They were good and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and fraternally the father was affiliated with the Masonic Lodge. They reared a large family, eleven children in all, and seven are still living, two daughters and five sons: Rosa, wife of Samuel Acker; Sarah, wife of John Dealy; and James, Joseph, Amos, Albert and Samuel.

Samuel A. Roop grew up on his father's farm just over the state line in Ohio, and had a good training for the serious responsibilities of life both in the common schools and by the work that was assigned him at home.

January 10, 1889, he married Miss Etta Acker. Mrs. Roop was born on the farm where she now lives, and also had a common school education. Mr. and Mrs. Roop have nine children: Viola, Samuel R., Estella, Walter, Daisy, Harry, Helen, Leah and Forest. Mr. Roop is a democratic voter.

Henry Colter. For a period of over thirty-five years Henry Colter has made his work of value in Adams County and surrounding territory as a manufacturer of hardwood lumber. His Adams County mill is at Bobo. Mr. Colter is a practical sawmill man and has led a life of extreme industry and his relationships with the community have always been most commendable.

Mr. Colter was born in Prussia, Germany, March 28, 1848, son of Jacob and Carolina (Leppla) Colter. His parents lived in the old country until they had three children in the family, and in 1852 started for the United States. They lived in Ohio until 1881 when they moved to Adams County, Indiana.

Mr. Henry Colter grew up in Ohio, was educated there in the local schools and in early life began saw milling. For some years before he was engaged in the business of contractor and builder. He was a skillful carpenter. He built a number of houses in this section of the country. On September 14, 1881, he came to Adams County and bought a saw mill near Bobo. In 1884 he built a saw mill there which burned down. He then rebuilt his present mill at Bobo which he has kept working practically every season for over thirty years. His mill has con-

verted vast quantities of the hardwood timber in this part of Indiana into lumber, and he finds a local and distant market for his product. A number of years ago Mr. Colter also bought a farm of eighty acres where Bobo now stands, and now has ninety-eight acres there in two pieces of land.

On June 28, 1871, at Bolivar, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Mr. Colter married Miss Ellen E. Rennels. Mrs. Colter was born in Tuscarawas County November 4, 1850, daughter of Sampson and Rachel (Cable) Rennels, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. The parents married in Ohio and the father was a contractor of bridges. He was in the Civil war, serving four years, being in sixteen of the hard-fought battles. Mrs. Colter was educated in the common schools of her native state. Mr. and Mrs. Colter have four children: William A., Ben S., Charles H., and Earl D. William A. is now cashier of the Willshire Banking Company at Willshire, Ohio. Ben S. is principal of the Bobo public schools. Charles H. is connected with the Smith & Bell Lumber Company at Decatur. Earl D. Colter, the youngest son, was born in Adams County September 14, 1890, attended the public schools of Bobo, graduated from the Decatur High School in 1911, and in June of the same year took the active management of his father's saw mill at Schumm in Van Wert County, Ohio. He continued in active charge of this mill until December 13, 1917, when he enlisted in the Twentieth Engineers and was stationed near Washington, D. C., at the grounds of the American University, but is now in France.

The Colter family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bobo and Mr. Henry Colter is one of the church trustees and has always been successful in attendance and liberal in support of all church activities. In matters of politics he is a republican. He is still owner of the saw mill formerly conducted by his son at Schumm, Ohio.

E. Burt Lenhart, a lawyer of high standing at Decatur, and secretary of the Decatur Abstract & Loan Company, represents a family that has had a part in the making and development of Adams County from the very beginning of settlement here, a period of over eighty years.

His grandfather and some of his earlier ancestors spelled the name Linhard. Mr. Lenhart's great-grandfather, John Linhard, came from Pennsylvania to Adams County about the time the county was organized in 1836. He located on wild and unbroken land in Root Township, not far from the present city of Decatur and took a full share of the responsibilities and hardships that went with pioneering. He accumulated several hundred acres of land, and this property once in his ownership is now worth many thousands of dollars. He lived a long and useful life and died in the early '70s when a very old man. His wife also lived to a good old age.

In their large family one of the children was Lawson, grandfather of E. Burt Lenhart. Three of Lawson's brothers and sisters are still living: Joseph, Mrs. Catherine Chronister of Bobo, and Mrs. Anna Shackley of Decatur, all of them past eighty years of age.

Lawson Lenhart was quite young when he came to Adams County and he married here Miss Lois Brown of another pioneer family. After their marriage they located on a farm of ninety-four acres, improved it from a wild condition, and were prosperous and successful farmers. Lawson Lenhart died at the age of seventy-five and his widow survived him several years and died about the same age. In politics the older members of the family were all followers of the fortunes of the whig party and later became republicans. Lawson Lenhart and wife had the following children: John Henry; Samantha, Mrs. William H. Brown

living in Southern Indiana; Sanford B., who is an operator in the oil fields about Robinson, Illinois, married and has a family; Ellen, who died after her marriage to Greenbury Baxter and left three children; Lawson C.; Marcus M., and Artie E., wife of William L. Bremer.

The late John Henry Lenhart, father of E. Burt Lenhart, was in his time one of Adams County's most conspicuous citizens. He was born March 8, 1847, and died June 6, 1903. He gave many years of his life to educational work, teaching in Root, Union and Kirkland townships. For a long period he was member of the firm Steele & Lenhart, lumber manufacturers and dealers at Peterson in Adams County. One of the specialties they manufactured was Texas stirrups, and they also conducted a planing mill. John Henry Lenhart served as justice of the peace of Kirkland Township for some years and for eight years was county clerk of Adams County, from 1891 to November, 1899. His funeral at Decatur was one of the largest attended in Adams County. For two hours all the business houses and the county officers were closed in his honor, and the funeral was attended by the Adams County Bar Association, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Masons and the Daughters of Rebekah in a body. The funeral service was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. John C. White, the pastor.

It is appropriate to quote some of the words found in the local paper at the time of his death: "Impressive and solemn were the sad rites and the great crowd in attendance but dimly portrays the high esteem in which Mr. Lenhart was held by the citizens of Decatur and Adams County. Many people were present from Berne, Geneva, Peterson, Bobo and other towns, while the country districts were also well represented. The beautiful casket was nearly buried in floral wreaths and emblems, the gifts of lodges, friends and relatives. The cortege was the largest seen here for many years. Interment was made at the Maplewood cemetery where the lodges performed the last offices in honor of their deceased brother. He is dead, but the good he has done will live for many years and his clean record, pure heart and upright principles should be a lesson for all. He lived a noble life."

At the same time the Adams County Bar Association passed resolutions, containing the following sentences: "Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Judge of the Universe to remove from our midst our brother, companion and fellow citizen, John H. Lenhart, it is resolved that in his death we have sustained a loss which we deeply deplore. As an officer of this court for eight years he was honest, upright and had ever in his mind the duties and responsibilities of his trust. As an attorney of this bar since the 7th day of October, 1898, he was ever faithful and true to his clientage, discharging the duties of his calling to the best of his knowledge and ability. As a citizen he was ever kind and courteous, leading a pure and open life, always ready to lend a helping hand to the needy and poor.

"Resolved, that out of respect for our deceased brother, the Adams County Circuit Court this day adjourn, and that the members of this bar attend his funeral in a body and that a copy of these resolutions be ordered spread of record on the order book of the Adams Circuit Court and that a memorial page be dedicated and set apart to his memory."

John Henry Lenhart married Tillie Stevens. She was born in Union Township, Adams County, in 1851, and was educated in the local schools. Her death occurred in June, 1907, at the age of fifty-six. She and her husband were both very active in the Methodist Episcopal Church and he served as superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. Their children were: E. Burt; Millie I., wife of David N. Rice, living in Kansas; Norman G., who is a graduate of Taylor University of Upland,

Indiana, now lives near Graylin, Colorado, unmarried, and is a prominent Mason, being affiliated with both the York and Scottish Rites, attaining the thirty-second degree in the latter branch; James Lawson, who died July 2, 1899, when about seventeen years of age after having completed the first year in high school and after having exhibited much musical talent; and Nettie, who died at about four years of age, and two sons who died in infancy.

E. Burt Lenhart was born at Peterson in Adams County October 1, 1871, and grew up and received his early education at his native town. He also attended the Decatur High School and the Tri-State Normal at Angola. For several years he worked as head sawyer in the Steele & Lenhart Mills at Peterson. His home has been at Decatur since the fall of 1893, and for six years he was deputy county clerk to his father. Then for a few years he was in the real estate business and in 1903 became one of the organizers of the Decatur Abstract & Loan Company and has since been a director and secretary.

In 1896 Mr. Lenhart was admitted to the bar and has since been in active practice, being a member of the firm Hooper & Lenhart. He is active in Masonry, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is past chancellor, district deputy and past representative to the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, is past noble grand of the Odd Fellows, is a charter member and was first counsel of the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and with his wife is a member of the Pythian Sisters. They are active Methodists and at present writing Mr. Lenhart is serving as superintendent of the Sunday school, a post which his father held before him for a number of years.

Mr. Lenhart married at Decatur Miss Martha Ellen Johnson. She was born in Adams County in 1873. They are the parents of three children, Velma O., Orval M., aged twenty, and Alice May, who is a student in high school. Velma O. was well educated in the local high school and Valparaiso University and for several years a teacher before she married Charles Bowman. They are now living on a farm in Adams County near Bobo and have one child, Kenneth E.

Paul Granville Hooper was admitted to the Adams County Bar in 1879. For many years he has conducted a large civil practice in the local courts, and is also identified with the abstract and loan business. He is president of the Decatur Abstract & Loan Company, which was incorporated in 1903. Mr. Hooper brought to this business a thorough and wide experience both as a lawyer and business man and the firm does a large share of the abstract work and the placing of loans throughout the country. They own a complete set of abstracts of the county.

Mr. Hooper was born in Adams County, Indiana, November 24, 1858. He grew up on a farm, attended public schools at Monmouth and Decatur, and when only fifteen years of age began teaching in a country district. He taught school in the winter time and during the summer read law with his half-brother and old friend of the late Judge James R. Bobo, who for many years was a premier of the county bar. Mr. Hooper was admitted to the bar in 1879 and during the same year became one of the proprietors and editors of the Adams County Union. He tried his first law case before Judge James R. Bobo and has kept his practice largely restricted to civil work. Upon entering the practice he formed a partnership with John T. France and in 1881 became associated with D. D. Heller, the firm of Heller & Hooper making one of the strongest legal combinations in the county for a number of years.

Mr. Hooper comes of old Maryland stock. His grandfather Jacob Hooper was born in Wales and came with two brothers to the American

colonies as early as 1760. One of these brothers, William Hooper, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Jacob Hooper located in Maryland and fought for several years for independence during the Revolution. He was wounded at the battle of Stony Point. After his marriage he located near Baltimore at Jones Falls, where he conducted a farm. He also had the contract for constructing the first railroad in the United States, now part of the Baltimore & Ohio System. This was a crude piece of railroading, the rails being wooden stringers with strap iron on the upper surface. The cars were small and were drawn by horses. Late in life Jacob Hooper moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, and died there at the age of ninety-five.

Ezekiel Hooper, father of the Decatur lawyer and business man, was born in Maryland in 1790 and grew up on a farm. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. When Adams County, Indiana, was still part of the jurisdiction of Allen County, Ezekiel Hooper arrived in the wilderness in 1834 and made extensive purchases of land from the Government. He acquired 160 acres in section 7, a like amount in sections 8 and 9, 80 acres in section 10, 40 acres in section 14, 160 acres in section 17, and 40 acres in section 18, all in Root Township. He was one of the first dozen settlers in that part of Adams County and he witnessed the growth and development and had a large part therein from the very beginning of the work of clearing away the woods until Adams County was well settled and the first railroad had penetrated and brought the county into connection with the world. He took an active part in organizing the county in 1836, and in 1842 was elected and commissioned one of the associate judges of the Common Pleas Court of the county. In politics he was a loyal whig, and joined the republican party when it was organized in the '50s. He was a very active member and contributor of his resources to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Ezekiel Hooper was three times married. His first wife, a Miss Swazey, was the mother of a large family of children. His second wife was a Mrs. Ames, who died a few years after her marriage in Adams County. For his third wife he married in 1857 in Adams County Mrs. Almira H. (Gorsline) Bobo. She was a native of Ohio and married for her first husband Townshend Bobo, who died in Lake County, Indiana, in 1853. One of the children of this marriage was the late Judge James R. Bobo. Townshend Bobo died during a cholera epidemic in Indiana. Ezekiel Hooper and his third wife spent their remaining years on their farm in Root Township, where he died in the spring of 1871. She passed away in 1898 at the age of eighty-three. They were very active in behalf of all church causes and Ezekiel Hooper is credited with having erected the first frame church in Adams County. This church was built for the Methodist people at Monmouth in 1853. Ezekiel Bobo also served as a school commissioner for seven years from 1851 to 1858, and one of the important functions of the board while he was a member was selling and deeding the school lands of the county.

Paul G. Hooper was the only child of his father's third marriage. He himself married at Hoagland in Allen County, Indiana, December 25, 1879, Miss Charity E. Harrod. She was born and reared in Allen County, and was educated at the Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne. Her parents were Morgan and Samantha (Beem) Harrod. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and he is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and with other local organizations.

Jonathan D. Nidlinger is an Adams County citizen equally at home in town or county, and is a high class representative of the strictly

business farmer. Mr. Nidlinger is prominent in some of the state and larger organizations representing livestock men, and all these associations indicate the success he has made since he began farming in Union Township thirty-five years ago. His farm in that locality is widely known as the Clover Leaf Farm.

Mr. Nidlinger is a native of Adams County, born in Root Township March 27, 1861, a son of Nathan and Jane (Walters) Nidlinger. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania. His father came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1845, while the Walters family arrived here in 1846. Both names are therefore identified with the pioneer life of this section. Nathan Nidlinger and wife were married in 1847 and at once started building a home in Root Township, where they spent their industrious and worthy lives. The mother was an active member of the United Brethren Church. Nathan Nidlinger was a democrat and often concerned himself with the success of his party and with the good government of his community. He died in 1892 and his wife in 1890, both passing away in the month of January. They had seven children: George W., born October 19, 1848, deceased; Sarah J., born February 2, 1850, wife of Charles H. Baker; Mary J., born May 16, 1852, died in infancy; Rachel A., born November 4, 1854, wife of Lafayette Baker; Elizabeth, born October 22, 1859, wife of John Stults; Jonathan D.; and Elijah H., born December 23, 1864, whose present home is at Winona Lake, Indiana.

Jonathan D. Nidlinger grew up at his father's home in Root Township. His education was a product of the district schools, and he remained a part of his father's home until he was twenty-one. On December 15, 1881, he married Miss Louisa J. Kline. About the time of his marriage Mr. Nidlinger moved to the farm in Union Township, where he is still living, and that one locality has been the scene of his laborious activities ever since. Clover Leaf Farm now comprises 135 acres, well cultivated, highly improved, and noted especially as the home of fine livestock.

Through his success with livestock Mr. Nidlinger has been honored with a number of offices in organizations of livestock men. He has served as secretary of the Indiana Swine Breeders Association, as president of the National Duroc Association of Dayton, president of the Great Northern Indiana Fair Association. Away from the farm he is active in business life at Decatur, and is one of the charter organizers of the People's Loan & Trust Company of that city and one of its directors. Mr. Nidlinger was elected and served four years three months as trustee of Union Township. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Decatur.

In the family are five children: Elva M., a graduate of the common schools, formerly a teacher and now the wife of Jacob C. Barkley; William E., who since leaving school has taken up farming in Union Township; Irene J., a graduate of the common schools and now living at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Ruth, who finished her school work at Bryan, Ohio, and is now the wife of John A. Cline of Bryan Ohio; and Hugh V., who has finished his education and is still at home

Mrs. Anna Amstutz is member of one of the families longest identified with Monroe Township of Adams County, and she still lives in that township, where her own life has been one of service to her children, to her neighbors, and to every responsibility connected with home making.

Mrs. Amstutz was born in Monroe Township September 24, 1870, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Mazeline) Schwartz. Her grand-

parents, Peter and Theresa Schwartz, and her maternal grandparents, John and Anna Mazeline, all came from France in early days, and were among the pioneers of Adams County.

Miss Schwartz, after growing up and getting her education in the public schools, was married in March, 1896, to Samuel Habegger, a son of Jacob and Katie Habegger. Mr. Habegger was one of the successful young farmers of Adams County and in 1904 he bought a place of thirty-three acres, but soon afterwards sold it and he died July 20, 1905. He was the father of five children: Elizabeth, born March 4, 1897; Jacob, born August 11, 1898; Menno, born March 13, 1900; David, born May 25, 1902; and Samuel, born August 17, 1904. On October 21, 1906, Mrs. Habegger married Peter Inniger, a son of Abraham Inniger. Mr. Inniger, who died April 19, 1907, was also a farmer and shortly before his death had bought a place of forty acres, which he left well tilled and well improved to his wife. After his death one son was born, Elmer, born July 19, 1907. On September 24, 1916, Mrs. Inniger married Isaac Amstutz, who died August 31, 1917. By a former marriage he was the father of three children: Rachel, born May 19, 1900; Barbara, born June 1, 1902; and Jacob, born October 4, 1904. Mrs. Amstutz' children were all educated in the parochial schools and all the family are active members of the Amish Christian Church.

Peter A. Habegger. Devoting his time and energies to the occupation to which he was born and bred, Peter A. Habegger, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Monroe Township, is an excellent representative of the industrious and energetic men, who, though born in a foreign land, have been prominently identified with the development and promotion of the agricultural interests of Adams County, his well kept and carefully managed farm bearing testimony to his industry and thrift. He was born, October 12, 1871, in Canton de Berne, Switzerland, which was also the birthplace of his father, Abraham M. Habegger.

His paternal grandparents, Peter and Elizabeth Habegger, crossed the ocean many years after their marriage, and with their family settled in Adams County, Indiana. Buying land in Monroe Township, they spent their remaining years on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Habegger of this sketch. Peter Habegger's death occurred January 1, 1901, and his wife's a few months earlier, on October 7, 1900.

Coming from Switzerland with his family to Indiana, Abraham M. Habegger secured title to eighty acres of wild land in Adams County and began its improvement. Clearing an opening in the forest, he erected the customary log cabin, and like his pioneer neighbors lived for a time on the products of the soil and the wild game then so abundant. He subsequently purchased twenty acres of adjacent land, and by dint of diligent toil cleared, ditched and tiled about forty acres of his farm, and replaced the log cabin with a substantial frame house, and erected good barns, and made many other improvements of value. He married, in Switzerland, Lena Moser, a daughter of Johannes and Lydia Moser. Ten children were born to them, as follows: Samuel; Jacob; Peter A.; Mary, deceased: Elizabeth, deceased; Abraham; Eli; Dina; Robert; and Menno.

Reared to agricultural pursuits, Peter A. Habegger naturally adopted farming as his vocation, and his success as a tiller of the soil shows that he made no mistake. In October, 1905, he settled on his farm of eighty acres in Monroe Township, and during the years that he has occupied it has greatly improved the property, having entirely renovated the buildings, putting up new ones where necessary, and having

placed the land in good yielding condition. The log barn erected by his grandfather is still standing, and on account of its construction is not only a curiosity, but a landmark.

Mr. Habegger married, November 11, 1894, Anna Neuenschwander. Her father, Jacob Neuenschwander, a native of Iowa, became owner of several farms in Indiana, having bought and sold at an advantage, and is now living on a farm of eighty acres in Monroe Township, Adams County, being one of the prosperous and well-to-do agriculturists of his community. He married Elizabeth Stauffer, who was born in Adams County, and to them eleven children were born, Mrs. Habegger having ten brothers and sisters, as follows: Adam; Lavina; Eli, deceased; Emanuel; David; Theresa; Caroline; Alien; Rosina; and Lydia, the five last named being deceased. Having accumulated a competency, Mr. and Mrs. Neuenschwander are now living retired from active pursuits, having a pleasant home in Berne.

Nine children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Habegger, namely: Andrew, born November 1, 1895, married Calista Reusser of Adams County; Martin, deceased, was born June 2, 1897; Clinton, born February 11, 1899; Erlina, born November 23, 1900; Sylvan, born May 6, 1903; Edna, born August 23, 1904; Arley, born May 31, 1908; Milo, born January 17, 1910; and Marcella, born February 5, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Habegger, true to the faith in which they were brought up, are members of the Mennonite Church.

Victor Graber is one of the progressive agriculturists of Monroe Township, Adams County, where he has lived for over twenty years. He located on his present farm of forty acres of good land in December, 1895. One of the features of his farm is a log cabin, which formerly sheltered the occupants of the place, and it is now standing as an interesting relic among the larger and better equipped buildings.

Mr. Graber was born in Allen County, Indiana, July 25, 1872, and grew up and received his education in the common schools there. His grandfather, Peter Graber, was a native of France, and died March 13, 1879. Victor Graber is a son of Peter and Katie (DeLagrange) Graber. His mother is still living and resides on a farm of 120 acres in Michigan.

Victor Graber married Elizabeth Schwartz, who was born in Allen County, Indiana, April 1, 1877, daughter of Christian and Barbara (Smoker) Schwartz. She, too, grew up and received her early education in Allen County. Her father was a native of France, and died in August, 1906. Her mother was a native of Holmes County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Graber have the following children: Peter A., born February 18, 1898; Barbara, born September 14, 1899; Victor C., born November 26, 1901; Levi, born March 23, 1903; Manas, born September 1, 1906; David V., born March 29, 1910.

Mrs. Graber's brothers and sisters are Mary, Rosa, Dena and Sarah. She has one half sister living, Barbara, and half brother, Jacob. Mr. Graber and family are active members of the Amish Christian Church.

Oscar Steiner. A worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Adams County, Oscar Steiner is profitably engaged in general farming in Monroe Township, his estate of eighty acres being well improved and amply supplied with the machinery best adapted for carrying on his labors after the most approved modern methods. A son of Samuel Steiner, he was born May 29, 1880, in Berne, Monroe Township, Adams County, and has spent his entire life in this section of the state.

Samuel Steiner was born in Berne, Switzerland, February 28, 1853,

and six months later was brought by his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Steiner, to Indiana, where he has since resided, his home at the present time being in the Village of Berne, Adams County. A farmer by occupation, he was for several years prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits, his farm of eighty acres lying about two miles south of the one now occupied by his son Oscar. Disposing of that, he bought the eighty-acre farm on which the son now lives, and in its improvement spent a vast amount of time and labor, having done all of the tiling, ditching and fencing required to place it in a tillable condition. He married Mary Sprunger, who was born in Monroe Township, Adams County, July 4, 1856, a daughter of Christian and Mary Anna Sprunger.

Educated in the public schools of Monroe Township, Oscar Steiner acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture under his father's wise instruction, and since assuming possession of the farm which his father cleared from its primitive wildness has managed it with much ability, the land responding readily to his care, and each season yielding abundant crops.

Mr. Steiner married, May 2, 1905, Manda Baumgartner, whose parents Ephraim and Magdalene Baumgartner are both dead, the death of the mother having occurred January 18, 1909, and that of the father January 1, 1911. They were for many years members of the farming community, owning and operating sixty acres of land, which they sold in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Steiner have five children, namely: Carlton C., born May 19, 1906; Perl Luther, born December 13, 1907; Luella, born January 19, 1910; Emmett, born August 8, 1911; and Clarence, born September 8, 1914. Both Mr. and Mrs. Steiner are members of the Mennonite Church, to which their parents also belonged.

JOHN SCHURGER. There are many examples that give force to the old truth about the value of concentrated effort along one special line. One of them is furnished by the career of Mr. John Schurger of Decatur, who is credited with having made the first abstract of title in Adams County and has been constantly engaged in that as his chief line of business since October 5, 1875. There have been many abstractors in the county at different times, but none of them has been so long at the work and has had a more complete familiarity with all the land records of the county as Mr. Schurger.

It was in 1875 that he made the first abstract for the Equitable Loan Association of New York City. In 1874 he had been elected to the office of county recorder, beginning his official duties September 5, 1875. He filled that office with credit and efficiency for two terms, altogether a period of eight years. Mr. Schurger has always enjoyed the high esteem of his fellow citizens not only for his business success but for the interest he has shown in local affairs. One time he was run for the office of county commissioner against his own will, and his defeat was entirely due to the fact that he made absolutely no effort to get elected. Politically he has always been a democrat. On leaving the office of county recorder he was admitted to the bar in October 1883, and while one of the oldest member of the Adams County bar, his work has been less in the field of the law than in real estate and abstracts. For eight years he practiced as a partner with Mr. W. H. Reed, another prominent attorney of the county. During that time, however, he did most of his work as an abstractor and in the loan and real estate business. More and more his time has been concentrated upon this certain field. After leaving practice with Mr. Reed he became a partner with David E. Smith, and their partnership was terminated about three years ago when Mr. Smith was elected to the office of judge of the Adams County

Circuit Court. Mr. Schurger now gives his exclusive attention to abstracting. His authoritative knowledge and the integrity of his character have brought him many times to discharge duties of delicate adjustment and trust, and he has managed numerous difficult probate cases and has been nominally a probate officer in the county for many years.

Mr. John Schurger was born in Seneca County, Ohio, March 11, 1838, and though now in his eightieth year is still active and works as regularly as many men half his age. Mr. Schurger's career has been rather remarkable, in one respect for the fact that he secured only about forty days of schooling in an English school, though he attended a German school for a brief time. What he is and what he has done is entirely due to his earnest efforts and his willingness to assume responsibilities in advance of his years. When he was a young man he cleared up more than 150 acres of wild land in Ohio and Indiana. He has split many thousands of rails for 50 cents a hundred and has cut cordwood for 25 cents a cord.

His parents were George A. and Margaret (Rapp) Schurger. His father was born in France in 1796, but was taken as an infant by his parents to Bavaria, Germany, where he grew up. In 1828 he came to the United States. He had married a few months before starting on this eventful voyage, and the ship was ninety-three days in crossing the ocean. His young wife died with the birth of her first child and both of them were buried under the waters of the ocean. Bereft of his family George A. Schurger came on to Seneca County, Ohio. By trade he was an expert stone mason and fresco artist but at that time there was no demand for an artisan of that class and he secured a small tract of forty acres in Liberty Township of Seneca County, developed it as a farm, and before his death had twenty acres in cultivation. In Seneca County he married Margaret Rapp, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1803. She had come to America in 1832 and to Seneca County, Ohio, with her sister Magdalena and her brother George. She was the youngest of her brothers and sisters. George A. Schurger died in Seneca County June 5, 1852. He left his widow with four daughters and two sons, all of them young, and with only the homestead improved with a log house and a barn for their support. The widowed mother did her part, keeping the children together, but could not have accomplished the task without the aid of her oldest son, John, who was fourteen years old when his father died. Already for a year he had taken a man's part on the little farm, and he cannot remember a time when he did not have a large assignment of duties so that it was not strange that he had no opportunity to obtain an education. Mr. Schurger, however, made up for his early deficiencies by study and close observation, and has acquired more knowledge than many men who had better advantages in early life. His brother George served as a soldier in the Union army, and about the close of the war was discharged from a hospital, but was a long time in recovering his health. For a time he followed work as a telegraph operator, and finally removed to Virginia where he became well-to-do and where his last years were spent.

In 1864 Mr. John Schurger came with the widowed mother and several of the children to Adams County, Indiana, and they bought a small tract of land in St. Mary's Township six miles south of Decatur. In 1866 Mr. Schurger sold this and bought forty acres near Decatur, and in connection with farming he engaged in the butcher business. His widowed mother passed away at his home November 3, 1886, at the age of eighty-four. Two of Mr. Schurger's sisters, Catherine and Mary, became sisters in St. Mary of the Woods Convent near Terre Haute,

Indiana, and the sister Catherine, who is still there, has been a teacher in that noted institution since 1878.

On April 29, 1862, in Seneca County, Ohio, Mr. John Schurger married Agatha Fisher. She was born in Baden, Germany, in 1843, and came to America in 1848 with her parents S. and Theresa Fisher, who first located at Norwalk in Huron County, Ohio, and later moved to Seneca County, where Mrs. Schurger grew up and where her parents died. Mr. and Mrs. Schurger had eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. Catherine is the widow of John Schurger, lives in Seneca County, Ohio, and is the mother of eight children. Rosie is a sister in a convent at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Albert is a baker by trade and has a business at White Cloud, Michigan, and is married and has two daughters. Anthony, who like the other children was well educated in the parochial schools, is now living at Manistee, Michigan, is married and has four sons and one daughter. Magdalena is the wife of Elmer Roher of Pine River, Minnesota, and is the mother of four sons and one daughter. Louisa married Frank Kerber of Delphos, Ohio, and has six children. Christina lives at home and keeps house for her father. Fred F. is unmarried and assists his father in the office. Mrs. Schurger passed away April 10, 1917, after a long and faithful companionship as a wife and mother for fifty-five years. All the family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Schurger is a democrat, is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and has long been prominent in his church.

George M. Krick. Identified in an official capacity with one of the more important industries of Adams County, George M. Krick, of Decatur, manager of the Decatur Tile Works, is an active member of the enterprising firm of Krick, Tyndall & Company, manufacturers of tile, and a conspicuous factor in the business life of this section of Indiana. A son of Henry Krick, he was born in Decatur, and has always made this city his home.

He comes of thrifty German stock, the founder of the American family of Kricks to which he belongs having come from Germany to America in the early part of the eighteenth century, settling in Pennsylvania, where numerous of his descendants are still living. His paternal grandfather, John Krick, Jr., was a life-long resident of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where he was prosperously engaged in tilling the soil.

Born on the home farm in Berks County, Henry Krick migrated to Adams County, Indiana, in early manhood, settling in Decatur, which was then a mere hamlet. Beginning life at the foot of the ladder of attainments, he gradually climbed the hill of success, and by means of persevering industry and intelligent thrift acquired a competency. He is now living retired from active business, enjoying a well-earned leisure.

Having obtained his elementary education in the public schools of Decatur, George M. Krick completed his studies in Columbus, Ohio, at the Ohio State University. Returning home, he began to learn the process of making brick and tile from clay under his father's instructions, and soon mastered its every detail. Proving himself proficient in his trade, and the possessor of good executive ability, Mr. Krick was made manager of the Tile Works, a position for which he is amply qualified by knowledge and experience, and in which he is meeting with eminent success.

This plant was first established, in 1884, by Henry Krick, father of George M., who was engaged in the making of brick for about eight

years. In 1892, having formed a partnership with the late Daniel Meyers and John W. Tyndall, began making tile on a very modest and limited scale at the old brick plant. The venture proving successful, the business was enlarged, and for a number of years was carried on under its original firm name of Krick, Meyer & Company. In 1898, Mr. Meyer disposed of his interest in the plant, and the business was incorporated under the name of Krick, Tyndall & Company, Henry Krick assuming the presidency, and Mr. Tyndall becoming secretary and treasurer. It was incorporated with a capital of $12,000, which was subsequently increased to $60,000. In 1913, George M. Krick was made a director in the concern, and given entire management of the large and rapidly increasing business.

This company manufactures tiles of all sizes, from four inch to twenty-seven inch, turning out on an average about 1,800 tons a month, including building tiles, for which they have great demand in local markets. The company owns 120 acres of raw clay, from which millions of tons have already been taken, yet leaving a seemingly inexhaustible supply for future use. The products of the plant, in which thirty people are employed every month in the year, are all sold within a radius of 125 miles. A large share of the credit for the present prosperity of the tile works should be given Mr. Krick, who is managing its affairs most efficiently, and to the entire satisfaction of the company.

Mr. Krick married, in Decatur, Mary Kleinheintz, who was born, bred and educated in Adams County. Her father, John Kleinheintz, a native of Ohio, came to Adams County, Indiana, soon after his marriage with Mary Martin, and for a number of years prior to his death, which occurred in 1914, at the age of sixty-four years, was in business in Decatur. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Roman Catholic Church, to which his widow, now living in Decatur, also belongs. Mr. and Mrs. Krick have one child, Arthur W. Krick, born September 16, 1913. Fraternally Mr. Krick is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of Kekionga Lodge No. 65, Knights of Pythias. Politically he invariably supports the principles of the democratic party.

John W. Vail. During the more than thirty years that he has been a resident of the community, John W. Vail has written his name in clear and legible characters upon the pages of Decatur's business history. For the most part he has been engaged in manufacturing ventures, but his enterprises and interests have been so extensive and far-reaching that the title of capitalist or general business man would be one much more fitting than that of merely manufacturer. Also, he is identified with various other matters of interest in the life of his locality and is generally conceded to be one of Decatur's most prominent and representative citizens.

Mr. Vail was born in Ossian, Wells County, Indiana, May 10, 1859, and is a son of Thomas and Martha J. (Shepard) Vail. His parents, natives of New Jersey, came to Ohio as young people and met and were married at Bucyrus, Crawford County. Several years later they came to Indiana, locating at Fort Wayne, where Mr. Vail took a contract for building a section of the Pennsylvania Railway, known at that time as the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, with which he was engaged from 1849 to 1852. Subsequently he went to Ossian, Wells County, where he built a large section out of that place of the Lake Erie Railway, known at that time as the Fort Wayne, Muncie and Cincinnati Railroad, north from the station at Ossian through the swampy tract known as "Old Eight Miles," and beyond. In the meantime he had

conducted a cooperage business. He started this railroad contract in 1868, but did not live to see its completion, as he died in 1869, at the age of forty-seven years, although the road was completed by others in 1871. Mr. Vail was a republican in politics, and while not prominent in public affairs was a man of influence, well known and highly respected for his integrity and probity in all the walks of his life. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, as was also Mrs. Vail, a woman of many excellencies of heart and mind, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Daniel Spruang, of Decatur, in 1911, having reached the age of eighty-eight years, seven months. They were the parents of the following children: Rev. Solomon N., a retired minister of the Presbyterian faith, now residing at Washington, D. C., married, but without issue; Ephraim A., who is engaged in the manufacturing business at Paulding, Missouri, married but without children; John W., of this notice; Joseph, of Bryan, Ohio, married but without children; Aaron T., of Fort Wayne, Indiana, married and the father of three daughters and one son; Angeline, who died as the wife of Thomas Wanson, leaving two children; Elizabeth, the wife of R. M. Donaldson, living at Marmaduke, Arkansas, and the mother of two sons and two daughters; and Lucy, the wife of Daniel Spruang, of Decatur, no children.

John W. Vail was reared in Wells County and educated in the public schools there, coming to Decatur June 21, 1881, since which time he has been actively identified with the interests of this thriving community. Various enterprises occupied his attention until 1898 when he developed the Decatur Egg Case Co.'s plant and business at Decatur and continued in that line from time to time until 1911. In that year he built the large hoop plant located at this time at the G. R. & I. tracks and Adams Street, and conducted it until June, 1916, when he sold to the Bluffton Hoop Company. In 1916, Mr. Vail bought what is known as the Decatur Straw Board Company, which is operated at Marion, Indiana, and of which he is general manager, his son, Daniel R. Vail, being president of the concern. John W. Vail is also manager of the Delphi Strawboard Company, which was purchased by him in 1912, and this, like the other concern, is a closed corporation, all the stock being owned by the family. He is one of the leading business men of Decatur, where his company has its fillers and cases and this is the distributing point for the Egg-case business, handling from three to four hundred carloads of cases and fillers per year. Likewise Mr. Vail is interested in the Cardwell Stave Company, of Missouri, a large enterprise which has owned many thousands acres of land, which, as the timber has been cut off, the land has been sold for farming purposes. This latter company manufactures 40,000,000 staves annually. The manufacturing point for the egg cases is also at Cardwell, although the distributing point remains at Decatur, from whence they are sent all over the country, enough being handled yearly to ship 45,000,000 dozen eggs. The company owns twenty-eight miles of standard gauge railroad, known as the Paragola & Memphis Railway, which, in addition to caring for its own large interests, also does an interstate business. In all of his ventures Mr. Vail has shown a spirit of progressiveness and a striving for high business ideals. His excellent standing in the business world, both materially and in the opinion of his associates, has been gained by a career of strict integrity and honorable dealing, and at the same time his good citizenship has never been doubted.

In 1882, at Decatur, Mr. Vail was married to Miss Christina B. Railing, who was born in Adams County, Indiana, July 1, 1863, and grew up and was educated in that county. She is a daughter of Daniel and Elmina (Kern) Railing, natives of Pennsylvania, who were married in

Fort Wayne, Indiana, at the old Methodist College and took up their residence in Adams County on a farm east of Decatur, but later Mr. Railing became one of the leading horse buyers and shippers in Indiana, if not in the country, securing his stock all over the Central West and shipping it not only to Philadelphia and other large points, but to England, Germany and Havana, Cuba. After a successful career he retired from business and lived quietly at Decatur until his death when he was past eighty-five years of age, his wife having passed away two years previously, at the age of eighty-one. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Railing was a republican and prominent in the ranks of his party. They had two children: Mrs. Vail, and Saloma, who is the wife of J. B. Rice, has no children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Vail there have been born the following children: Daniel R., of Marion, Indiana, president and manager of the Marion & Delphi plants of the Decatur Strawboard Company, married Blanche Carroll, daughter of E. L. Carroll, and has one daughter, Mary Louise; Hugh Thomas, at the head of his father's Decatur office, married Frances Ward, resides at Decatur and has no children, and Forest E., like the other sons, well educated, secretary and treasurer of the two strawboard plants, a resident of Marion, married Grace Butler, of Decatur, and has no children.

All the members of this family are active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where Mr. Vail has for years been president of the board of trustees. For forty-one years Mrs. Vail has been a member of the choir, a record in both city and state, and her voice has been heard at the funerals of many of Decatur's foremost people who have passed away during this time. She has been treasurer of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the North Indiana Conference for twenty years, and in various other ways has been a useful worker. Fraternally Mr. Vail is connected with the Masonic Order at Decatur and Commandery at Bluffton, and the Knights of Pythias and Improved Order of Red Men.

Arthur C. Blakey. Some of the finest farms and some of the best farmers of Adams County are in Union Township. On one of the main traveled highways out of Decatur, seven miles northeast of the county seat and on Rural Route No. 3, are the well managed fields and homestead of Arthur C. Blakey, one of the younger and thoroughly energetic agriculturists and citizens of the county. Mr. Blakey has a hundred acres and by mixing intelligence with hard work and by good management has for a number of years kept it in a high state of productiveness as a farm. He raises all the staple crops of this section, and is also handling good grades of livestock.

Mr. Blakey was born in Union Township November 16, 1881, son of J. H. and Amelia (Thieme) Blakey. John H. Blakey, one of the prosperous farmers of Union Township, was born there February 17, 1855, son of Christian F. and Louisa (Fahlsing) Blakey, both natives of Prussia. Christian Blakey came to Adams County as a pioneer in 1836. He married in 1850 and he and his wife spent the rest of their days in this county, where he died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife at the early age of twenty-three. He had three children by his first marriage, and afterwards married Mary Rupp and had a large family by her.

John H. Blakey grew up in Adams County and had a common school education combined with the discipline of the home farm. All his active years have been devoted to farming, and he has owned several hundred of the fertile acres of Union Township. He is a democrat and has

always been interested in local affairs and with his wife is a member of the German Lutheran Church. John H. Blakey married, September 29, 1878, Amelia Thieme, who was born in Fort Wayne May 23, 1857, daughter of Godfrey and Amelia (Roscher) Thieme. Her parents came from Saxony, Germany, to Adams County and spent the rest of their lives here. John H. Blakey and wife had eleven children, nine of whom are still living: Julia, wife of Frank Kirbach; Arthur C.; Amelia, wife of Theodore Waldo; John W., a farmer in Union Township; Christian of St. Paul, Minnesota; Clara, wife of Harmon Young; Louise and Lydia, both at home; Henry, a student in the Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Arthur C. Blakey was born three miles southeast of where he now lives and most of his boyhood days were spent just a mile south of his present home. While there he was educated in the district schools and a few years after attaining manhood he married and established a home of his own.

He married, July 23, 1905, Miss Beata Schamerloh. Mrs. Blakey was born in Union Township, in 1883, daughter of Christian and Amelia (Boerger) Schamerloh. Mr. and Mrs. Blakey have four young children, Hugo, Elma, Rosa and Monema. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Blakey votes as a democrat and can always be found lined up with any movement for progress in his community.

Adam J. Bienz. Under the system of civil government prevailing in Indiana it has been customary for many years to choose only the best men of the community for the responsibilities of the office of township trustee. That rule has had some exceptions, but it will usually be found that the trustee is a resident who has made a success of his own affairs and is considered competent in the eyes of his fellow citizens to manage and supervise the administration of the local schools and of various other matters entrusted to his charge.

The present trustee of Union Township in Adams County is Adam J. Bienz, who has been a resident of this county for over a quarter of a century and is regarded as one of the leading farmers in his locality. His home is in section 8 on Rural Route No. 9 out of Decatur and situated eight miles northeast of the county seat.

Mr. Bienz was born in Willshire Township of Van Wert County, Ohio, October 26, 1859, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Pfleger) Bienz, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Jacob Bienz was nine years old when his parents came to the United States and settled in the wilderness of Van Wert County, Ohio. His father afterward married and secured eighty acres of land covered with heavy timber in Willshire Township and had to clear away a space before the humble log cabin could be erected. For some time they had no cook stove and all the meals were cooked at a fire beside a big log. The nearest market and milling center was Fort Wayne, and when the family ran out of flour or meal they put some grain in a wagon and drove an ox team to Fort Wayne, being two days going and two days coming. Grandfather Bienz cleared up his first eighty acres and developed a farm of 140 acres, besides some land across the state line in Union Township of Adams County. Jacob Bienz was one of a family of six sons and three daughters. Jacob Bienz and wife had eight children and those still living are: Lewis of Indianapolis; George of Van Wert County; Adam J.; Fred of Fort Wayne; Mary of Fort Wayne; Anna of Decatur.

Adam J. Bienz grew to manhood in Van Wert County and had a common school education. For several years he worked his father's

farm on the shares. At the age of eighteen he began learning the carpenter's trade and he followed it actively for about ten years and part of the time was a successful contractor. Between the occupation of carpentry and of farming he has been a very useful member of both his native county and of Adams County. On coming to this county in 1892 he located on the farm which he now occupies and has improved his land with substantial buildings. He owns 100 acres in the home farm and also forty acres in section 10 of the same township. He is both a general farmer and stock raiser.

Mr. Bienz has been three times married. His first wife was Pauline Garman, who died leaving one child, Minnie, who is still living unmarried. Mr. Bienz married for his second wife Christina Reinking, daughter of Ferdinand Reinking. She died at the age of thirty-one, leaving one child, Paula, wife of Walter Tieme. On May 14, 1900, Mr. Bienz married Miss Matilda Bleeke, who was born in Union Township May 29, 1874, daughter of Christian and Mary (Rupp) Bleeke. Mr. and Mrs. Bienz have seven children: Irvin, Amalie, Martin, Louise, Emil, Ida and Norma. The family are members of the Lutheran Church at the center of Union Township. Mr. Bienz has served as one of the church trustees. Politically he is a democrat and took his present office as trustee of Union Township in January, 1915. His term expires in January, 1919.

Samuel Luginbill. Adams County is a rich agricultural region, and among the able and enterprising men who are successfully conducting its farming interests not one is more worthy of mention in this volume than Samuel Luginbill, who is following his favorite pursuit in Monroe Township, where his birth occurred November 2, 1869.

His father, Christ Luginbill, was born in Switzerland, where his parents, Gendarine and Magdalene Luginbill, were life-long residents. Coming to Indiana in early manhood, he was variously employed for a few years, and when ready to establish himself in life bought forty acres of unbroken land in Monroe Township, and with characteristic energy began the improvement of a homestead. He cleared and placed under tillage the greater part of his land, making substantial improvements, rendering his estate attractive and valuable. He married, in Vera Cruz, Wells County, Indiana, Emela Jory, a daughter of Emanuel and Judith Jory, who reared three other daughters and three sons. Their ten children were all born in the log cabin in which they began housekeeping, as follows: Mary, born March 30, 1863, is not living; Susie, deceased, was born August 18, 1864; Edward, born September 3, 1866; Sophia, born February 8, 1868; Samuel, born November 2, 1869; David, deceased, born March 29, 1871; Solomon, born July 21, 1873; Rachael, deceased, born June 14, 1875; Anna, born November 29, 1876; and Sarah, born September 20, 1881. The father, who was born April 4, 1822, died on the homestead. The mother, born November 1, 1837, still resides on the home farm, a bright and active woman of four score years. She and her husband were members of the German Reformed Church, and reared their family in the same religious belief.

Samuel Luginbill was educated in the district schools, and became familiar with the many branches of husbandry while working with his father. Since the death of the father he has continued in his early occupation, having charge of the homestead, which he is managing in a most thorough and efficient manner. Having been engaged in farming all of his life, his practical and varied experience has made him an authority on all departments of agriculture. Mr. Luginbill has

never married, his mother being his housekeeper, while he is devoting himself to her care and comfort.

JOHN E. NELSON. Possessing unquestioned executive and business ability, John E. Nelson of Monroe, Adams County, holds a position of prominence in his community, and as manager of the Monroe Home Store has won the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. A son of George and Anna (Carpenter) Nelson, he was born in Adams County, Indiana, January 12, 1884.

A native of Adams County, George Nelson settled on a farm of forty acres in Monroe Township soon after his marriage, and was there actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in the fall of 1888, while he was yet in manhood's prime. To him and his wife three children were born, as follows: John E., of whom we write; Elizabeth, deceased; and Pearl. His widow was subsequently twice married. She married first John Lambert of Adams County, who died, leaving her with two sons, Francis and George. She married for her third husband Elias King, also of Adams County, and by that marriage she had one child, Martha. Mrs. King died in April, 1899, in middle age.

Having acquired a practical education in the public schools of Monroe Township, John E. Nelson, in 1902, began his career as a teacher, and was thus engaged for ten years. After teaching many terms in Washington Township, Mr. Nelson was principal of the Magley School two years, and afterward taught in Berne, in the seventh grade for one year. The ensuing three years he was principal of the South Ward School, in Decatur, there meeting with characteristic success. Resigning that position, Mr. Nelson accepted an offer with the Monroe Home Store, in Monroe, Indiana, and as its manager is carrying on an extensive and profitable business. The store was incorporated with a capital of $20,000.00, its stockholders being composed of home people, and under the judicious supervision of Mr. Nelson is doing a remarkably good business, carrying a complete stock of general merchandise and groceries of a high grade.

Mr. Nelson married, March 10, 1905, Elta May Essex, whose parents, Jesse V. and Anna F. Essex, natives of Indiana, reared several other children, as follows: Sherman; Merle; Minnie; Jason; Leona; Clella, deceased; Harry; Clifford; and Donald. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have three children, namely: Bernice, born in 1907; Marcella, born in 1910; and Dorris, born in 1913. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JACOB J. SCHWARTZ. In Adams County as in many other sections of the Middle West the day of the big farm and the loose farming methods has almost passed. Farming is now both a practical and scientific business and many of the most successful are pursuing it according to the intensive method, making one acre grow what the old-fashioned husbandman produced on two or three acres. One of the prosperous little estates which well illustrates this principle is the farm of Jacob J. Schwartz in Monroe Township. His acreage is only forty, but some of the men who have followed his thrifty enterprise confidently assert that he has made his farm yield as much as other places twice its size.

Mr. Schwartz located on his present place in January, 1908. The forty acres were cleared and had been under cultivation, but it was left to him to develop it as a real farm. He has put in all the building improvements, has done the ditching, the fencing, has sunk the wells, and

the entire place stands as a credit to his genius as a farmer. Mr. Schwartz has not found it profitable to handle any stock except thoroughbred. His pure bred stock include Holstein cattle, Shropshire sheep and Hampshire hogs. Mr. Schwartz is an expert cheese maker and comes of a family of cheese makers, the record of activity in that industry among the Schwartzes going back for 200 years. His ancestors at one time lived in what was known as the Department of Danube on the Danube River in Southern Europe.

Mr. Schwartz was born in Monroe Township of Adams County June 23, 1870, a son of Jacob and Mary (Liechty) Schwartz. His grandparents were John and Anna (Ramsyer) Schwartz. Jacob Schwartz, Sr., was born in France April 15, 1842, and on coming to Indiana settled on eighty acres in Adams County, which he cleared up and made into a good farm. He is still living, a resident of French Township, but his wife died in July, 1908. Their children were: Rosaina, who died April 26, 1885; Jacob J.; John J.; Catherine; Rachel; David J.; Solomon J.; Sarah; C. W. R.; and Joel J.

Jacob J. Schwartz grew up on a farm and had his schooling in the common schools of Monroe Township. He has done much teaching in his active career and has been school principal of the Amish Christian Church. His father was for many years an active minister of that church, whose worshippers were composed of residents of Monroe, French and Wabash Townships.

Jacob J. Schwartz has always given much credit to his good wife as a factor in his prosperity. Mrs. Schwartz is a thoroughly practical housekeeper, and with all the cares and responsibilities involved in rearing a family of wholesome children has found time to make her home almost self-sustaining and a center of manufacture of many products for which the Schwartz family does not resort to the grocery stores. She is an expert maker of soap, is an adept in the preserving of meats, fruits and vegetables, and her cellar is well stored with all the good things that support and sustain life.

Before her marriage she was Miss Lena Habegger, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Oberly) Habegger. Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz were married December 15, 1901, and their children are named as follows: L. Reuben, born March 28, 1903; Rosina L., born March 5, 1905; Huldah L., born March 31, 1911; Naomi L., born October 31, 1912; and Mary L., born September 1, 1913.

Her father, Jacob Habegger, was twice married. He married Catherine Oberly in 1862 and their children were: Mary Anna, born March 8, 1863; Elizabeth, born October 8, 1864; Peter H., born November 15, 1865, and died January 17, 1910; Samuel H., born October 22, 1867, and died in July, 1901; David H., born October 28, 1869; Abraham H., born October 25, 1871, and died September 5, 1877; Rachel H., born July 16, 1873, and died August 30, 1877; Joel H., born November 18, 1874; Catherine H., born June 28, 1876, and died August 26, 1877; Daniel H., born April 5, 1878; and Lena. The mother of these children died May 13, 1880. Jacob Habegger married for his second wife in 1881 Catherine Neusbaum. Their family of children consisted of the following: Emanuel H., born April 4, 1883; Jacob, born February 6, 1885; Noah, born December 18, 1891, and died March 18, 1894; John, born September 7, 1894; Anna, born February 23, 1896, and died June 13, 1900; Barbara, born April 12, 1898; Amos, born August 18, 1899.

When Mr. Schwartz' father first came to the United States everything in this district where he settled in Adams County was wild and new, and he worked night and day to make a home and a farm out of his 120 acres. His farm gained wide note over this section of Indiana

under the name of Apple Grove Farm. Mr. Schwartz and all his family are members of the Amish Christian Church, of which church he is assistant elder.

Charles H. Lehman. A practical agriculturist, giving close attention to the management of his farm, Charles H. Lehman of Monroe Township is meeting with well-merited success in his work, his homestead property of sixty acres of rich and fertile land being under a good state of tillage, and amply furnished with comfortable and convenient buildings. He was born, April 14, 1867, in Switzerland, where his parents, Abraham and Marianna (Neukum) Lehman, spent their entire lives, the death of the mother occurring in 1887, and that of the father in 1909.

Leaving his native land at the age of sixteen years, Charles H. Lehman came directly to Adams County, Indiana, arriving in Berne April 30, 1883. He worked by the day as a farm laborer until 1898, when he made use of his mechanical ability, and for a few years thereafter followed the carpenter's trade, in the meantime owning and operating a threshing outfit during the harvest seasons. His father, a landholder in Switzerland, had also farmed and managed a threshing machine and a sawmill, so that he was familiar with the work. In 1899 Mr. Lehman bought forty acres of land in Monroe Township, and carried on farming for four years. Selling the property in 1903, he moved to Berne, where he was engaged in carpentering for five years. In 1908 Mr. Lehman bought his present farm of sixty acres in Monroe Township, and has since devoted his time and attention to general merchandise, his land being under good cultivation, and responding readily and satisfactorily to his efforts.

Mr. Lehman married, March 6, 1898, Bertha Liechty, a native of Switzerland. She is a daughter of Samuel and Anna Liechty, who reared several other children, as follows: Jeremiah; Jephtha; Helena; Adelina; Matilda; David; Caroline; and Rosa. Two of the daughters are still living in Switzerland. Mr. and Mrs. Lehman are the parents of six children, namely: Marcus, born December 13, 1898; Arthur, born August 15, 1900; Ellis, born August 5, 1902; Paul, born March 21, 1905; Arvilla, born October 6, 1907; and Anna, born April 10, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Lehman, true to the religious faith of their parents, are members of the Mennonite Church.

Judson W. Teeple is one of the oldest active members of the Adams County bar, having been continuously in practice at Decatur for thirty-six years. He is a man of solid achievements in his profession and has always shown a willingness to get out and work for anything that concerned the public welfare.

Mr. Teeple was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1883. He had studied law at Decatur with the well-known old time firm of Peterson & Huffman. For the first year after his admission Mr. Teeple had as a partner Shaffer Peterson, but since that time has practiced alone and has been given many important cases to handle in the courts and as a counsel.

In 1909 he was elected mayor of Decatur, filling that office four years. In 1894 he was chosen a member of the city council and was in that body four years. Politically he is a republican and his active affiliation with a party that has always been in the minority in Adams County accounts for the fact that his public career is not a more conspicuous feature of his life. From 1898 to 1902 he was county chairman of his party, and in 1900 was nominated for county judge, though he made little effort in the subsequent campaign in this democratic

stronghold. His first appearance in politics came in 1884 when he was nominated for state representative from Adams and Jay counties. Though practically unknown in the latter county he had a majority of the votes there, and his defeat was due to the preponderance of democrats in Adams County. Mr. Teeple is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and the Tribe of Ben Hur.

He was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County October 29, 1856, and represents some of the very oldest and best known names in the early annals of this county. He grew up in his native community, was educated in the local schools and also the city high school, and for several years taught in Adams County and also in the State of Ohio before taking up the study of law.

His father, John E. Teeple, was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1831, and was brought to St. Mary's Township in Adams County in 1842. The grandparents spent the rest of their days on the farm which they improved from a wilderness condition. John Teeple married Catherine Smith, who was born in St. Mary's Township January 1, 1835. Her parents were Zachariah and Susanna (McCleland) Smith, both natives of Ohio. The Smith family came to Indiana and located in what is now Adams County before the limits of this county had been definitely assigned and before a county organization had been effected. The year of the Smiths advent to Adams County was 1834. Zachariah Smith was a man of great influence and prominence in the early days. He developed at one time nearly a thousand acres in separate farms. He was the first man elected sheriff of Adams County, in 1835, upon its organization and he filled that office until he was drowned, in 1844. He was accidentally drowned while trying to ford the St. Mary's River, which was then greatly swollen, being on his way home at the time. His death threw the care of nine young children on the shoulders of his good wife, who performed a notable part in making for them a home and giving them an education. She lived many years after her husband's death and passed away in 1892. Zachariah Smith was an ardent whig and one of the first men in time and in influence in Adams County. Two of his sons, Isaac and Joseph Smith, were gallant soldiers of the Civil war, Joseph serving three years and Isaac four years. Joseph was captured at Mumfordsville, Kentucky. Both these soldier boys came home, married, and Joseph is still living, while Isaac died only a few years ago.

Mr. Teeple married in Wayne County, Indiana, Maggie A. Zigler. She was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, in September, 1858, and was eight years of age when her parents removed to Wayne County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple became the parents of three children: Erie M., born in 1886, died at the age of seven months; and the youngest child, Roy S., born in 1892, also died at seven months. Their only living son is Ray Zigler Teeple, born in 1889. He was educated in the Decatur High School, and is now a telegraph operator at Decatur with the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway. He married Miss Hilda Smith of Decatur and they have one son, Richard Smith, born in July, 1913.

David Flanders, now living retired at 313 South Third Street in Decatur, is a man of wide and unusual experience in life. For many years he was active in the railway service, but more than twenty years ago came to a farm in Root Township of Adams County, and only left off active farming in 1911, when he moved to his town home and has since enjoyed its ample comforts.

Mr. Flanders still owns the 120-acre farm in Root Township which he occupied in 1894. This farm might well serve as a model for farm

improvements in this section of Northeastern Indiana, is thoroughly cultivated, kept up in a high state of efficiency, and has a fine group of building improvements, including barns, granaries and a substantial ten-room house. Mr. Flanders also owns a farm of 400 acres in Midland County, Michigan, a mile from the town of Sanford. This is a very productive fruit and grain farm, and has also excellent building improvements. Mr. Flanders has owned this Michigan property for the past seven years. Besides his own residence at Decatur he has a high class dwelling house on North Second Street occupied by his son.

Prior to his removal to Adams County Mr. Flanders was for many years a resident of Cincinnati, and in the service of the Big Four Railway Company. He began in the baggage department and later was a passenger conductor for twenty-two years. Most of this time he had a fast passenger run between Cincinnati and Indianapolis. For a time he was in charge of a local suburban train out of Cincinnati for a distance of twenty-five miles, and when he left that run he was given in appreciation for his services a gold-headed cane by the commuters who had long traveled with him and who felt a personal interest in his success. This cane bore the inscription "on time" and he had the reputation of taking his train in and out of the terminal strictly on the minute. He enjoyed a large acquaintance among the traveling public and was highly esteemed by his superiors in railroad circles.

Mr. Flanders was born in Southern Canada November 10, 1844, but of New England parentage. He is a son of David S. and Sally (Leavett) Flanders, both natives of Vermont. They were married in Lower Canada, and spent their lives there as farmers. They died when quite old. They were first affiliated with the Wesleyan Church and later became Methodists. David S. Flanders had two brothers, Alvin and Philip, who spent their active careers in the West. Alvin Flanders was at one time governor of Washington and also represented that state in the United States Senate. He died in Washington, and his brother, Philip, who was a successful gold miner, died in California. There were several other uncles and aunts of Mr. Flanders who died in Boston, where they were well known, prominent people, and of families identified with politics, business and several of them with the wholesale and retail trade. Mr. Flanders' uncle, Rev. Rufus Flanders, was very prominent in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, and at the time of his death several years ago was chairman of the Conference of Upper and Lower Canada.

Mr. David Flanders has a sister, Mrs. Mary Pope, now living at the old homestead in Lower Canada. Her son, Jerry, became a lieutenant in the Canadian contingent of the allied armies in France and was recently killed while leading his men bravely at the famous Hill No. 70. Another brother of Mr. Flanders named Philip died when young in Canada. His brother Rufus resides in Cincinnati, is married but has no children. Another brother, Jerry, is a successful business man in Boston. A sister, Mrs. Horace Taylor, also lives in Boston and has a family of sons and daughters.

When David Flanders was nineteen years of age, after a youth spent on the home farm in Canada and an education from the local schools, he removed to Boston, Massachusetts, and a year or so later went to Cincinnati, to take his first position with the Big Four Railway Company. At that time the Big Four was a small road with about a hundred twelve miles of track, while now it is a system of nearly two thousand miles. Several years after going to Cincinnati Mr. Flanders married Miss Alatha G. Gladden. She was born in Steubenville, Ohio, June 23, 1849, daughter of George W. and Martha L. Gladden. Her mother was born in Ohio,

a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Long) Risher, the former born in Pennsylvania in 1803 and the latter in Kentucky in 1801. The Risher family spent most of their lives in Ohio and died when quite old in Steubenville. They were active Methodists, and Frederick Risher was a lay preacher in that denomination. His business was operating saw and grist mills and also farming. George W. Gladden, father of Mrs. Flanders, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, son of James and Sarah (Shively) Gladden. His parents spent their lives on their fine farm in Eastern Ohio, were members of the United Brethren Church, and lived to be quite old. George W. Gladden after his marriage settled in Jefferson County, Ohio, and followed the trade of carpenter for several years. In 1860 he brought his family to Cincinnati, where he entered manufacturing. In 1882 he moved to Adams County, Indiana, settling in Root Township, and was a practical farmer there until his death in November, 1895. His widow died in January, 1899. George W. Gladden was a very decided republican and during war times gave a most active support to the Union cause. He and his wife were Methodists and he was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mrs. Flanders is the oldest of her parents' children and the only survivor at the present time. One daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flanders, Allene, died young and was buried in Cincinnati. Their family now consists of one son, George G., who was born at Cincinnati, September 20, 1870, and was educated in the city schools. For several years he was in the grocery business, but for the past eight years has been connected with the Decatur postoffice. He married Jessie Carlisle, who was born in Cincinnati of Scotch parents. Her father, Robert Carlisle, is now living at Decatur. George G. Flanders and wife have two children, the joy and pride of their grandparents. The older is Carlisle D., aged twenty, a graduate of the Decatur City High School and now serving with the National army, having enlisted with Company A of Decatur. At the present time he is stationed in Mississippi. The second granddaughter, Gladys, aged eighteen, is a senior in the Decatur High School. The family are all active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Flanders does much church work, and is active in the missionary and other societies. Fraternally Mr. Flanders is a Knight Templar Mason, having his affiliations in Cincinnati.

Dr. James M. Miller. Twenty years ago Dr. James M. Miller came to Decatur, and at that time was a well accredited general physician. During his practice at Decatur he has more and more concentrated his time and work upon special lines as a specialist in eye, ear, nose and throat diseases. His attainments in this field rank him among the leaders of Northeastern Indiana, and cases come to him from many outlying counties and districts. Doctor Miller has the equipment, the experience, and by constant study and association with clinics and hospitals has kept up with the profession in every advance.

Doctor Miller was born February 14, 1861, at Celina, Ohio, and he acquired his early education in that city. He began the study of medicine under a local doctor at Celina, and in 1883 attended the course at the medical department of Wooster University at Cleveland and in 1886 received another diploma from the Ohio Medical University at Cincinnati. He then entered private practice as a physician and surgeon at Mendon in Mercer County, Ohio, and enjoyed a large practice there for eleven years. In 1897 he removed to Decatur and was in the general lines of his profession here for six years before he developed his specialty. Doctor Miller has taken post-graduate work every few years, visiting the hospitals and clinics at Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and New York

City. His specialty requires a large amount of equipment, and he has everything needed for his work and has a specially equipped office in a substantial brick structure adjoining his beautiful home.

Doctor Miller belongs to a professional family. His father, Dr. Milton M. Miller, a native of Greene County, Ohio, began to practice of medicine there in 1847. Later he removed to Mercer County, Ohio. His wife was Susan E. Noble, a native of Auglaize County, Ohio, and she was reared and educated and for a time taught school. Two of her brothers became physicians, one of them, Joshua, practicing for many years in Buffalo, New York, while the other died in Pennsylvania soon after taking up practice. Dr. Milton Miller after his marriage removed to Mendon in Mercer County, but about 1855 went to Celina and finally retired from his active work and died there in 1889 at the age of seventy-two. His widow survived him many years and passed away in 1909 at the home of a sister in Chicago when she was eighty-six years old. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. James M. Miller married for his first wife Dell White, who was born and reared in Mercer County, Ohio, and died eighteen months after her marriage. She was survived by a daughter, Zilla, whose death occurred at the age of sixteen. In 1892 at Decatur Doctor Miller married Miss Sadie M. Archbold, who was born in Adams County. Doctor and Mrs. Miller are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a democrat and is now serving as a member of the city council. For twelve years he was county health officer, and he made that office an opportunity for real service to the people of the county, doing much to educate them to the importance of proper sanitation and the observance of the fundamental principles of health. Doctor Miller is a member of the Indiana State and County Medical societies and has filled all the offices in the latter organization. Fraternally he is affiliated with Kekionga Lodge No. 65 of the Knights of Pythias, with St. Mary's Lodge No. 167, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a member of the Local Tribe of Ben Hur. He has done much professional work with these orders and is a past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and past noble grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having represented both in the State Grand lodges in Ohio.

Annie E. Winnes. For over half a century the name Winnes has been associated with the business affairs of Decatur and with one of the oldest and most prominent families of that city. Two generations of Adams County people have bought their boots and shoes from the Winnes store of Decatur. This business, one of the oldest established and one of the longest under one continuous family management, is now successfully conducted by Miss Annie E. Winnes, daughter of its founder, and for many years proprietor. Miss Winnes is a splendid business woman, and has been in the boot and shoe business, either under her father or as his successor, upwards of thirty-five years.

The present store is at the corner of Second and Monroe streets, and the large stock of goods occupy a room 24 by 60 feet. The founder of the business was the late Henry Winnes, who came to Decatur in 1866. His first store was on West Monroe Street, where the city hall was afterwards built. In 1869 he moved to Second Street, buying a lot and store, and was there until 1880, when he sold the property to the Schafer Hardware business. For a time after that he operated as a lumber merchant, but at the end of eighteen months again bought a stock of boots and shoes in 1883, and had his store on West Monroe Street until January, 1897, when he moved his stock to the present store building at the corner of Second and Monroe streets. He continued active in the business until his death on May 15, 1899.

Henry Winnes was a son of Christopher and Anna B. Winnes and was born at Waldorf in one of the Rhine provinces of Germany November 18, 1835. He received his early education in Germany and at the age of seventeen came with his parents to the United States. The voyage was made by sailing vessel and was a long and tedious one. Landing in New York City, they proceeded to Western New Jersey, where Christopher Winnes and wife located on a farm. They spent the rest of their years in the vicinity of Bridgeport, New Jersey, and were quite old when they passed away. Both were members of the German Lutheran Church.

Henry Winnes came to manhood on the old farm in New Jersey and learned the trade of shoemaker there. He finished his apprenticeship in Philadelphia, where during the war he was engaged in filling contracts for boots and shoes to supply the Union soldiers. Early in 1866 he left Philadelphia and started west for the purpose of finding a suitable business location. He visited Peoria, Illinois, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, but was not satisfied with either place and then came to Decatur, which at that time was a town of about five hundred people and was just beginning its development as a commercial center. He located here five years before a railroad came to the town. In 1869 Henry Winnes built a home at the corner of Fifth and Madison streets, and that has been the family residence ever since. On July 20, 1862, in Philadelphia, Henry Winnes married Anna B. Forrester. She was born in Thierstein, Germany, in 1842, and was a small girl when she came with her parents to America. They arrived at Baltimore, Maryland, December 15, 1853, which was practically the same date at which the Winnes family had landed in this country. Her parents were John Wolfgang and Catherine (Schorner) Forrester. Both of them spent their last years in Baltimore, where her father was a shoemaker. They were active members of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Henry Winnes is still living at the age of seventy-six and is enjoying good health and considerable activity for one of her years. She is active in the Baptist Church. Mr. Henry Winnes was prominent in Odd Fellow and Masonic circles, and his funeral was under the auspices of the above orders. He was a democrat and at one time quite active in local politics, serving as a member of the Town Board and doing much in many ways to promote the welfare of Decatur.

Henry Winnes and wife had a large family of children, Miss Annie E. being the oldest. Harry is a furniture merchant at Reedley, California, is married but has no children. Henrietta is the wife of Hugh Miller of Anderson, Indiana, and their children are Harold, Mildred, Gretchen and Barbara. Nellie is a graduate of the Decatur High School and is now teaching in the city schools. Fred is unmarried and is a blacksmith in California. William resides in Decatur and by his marriage to Nina Reed of Decatur has two daughters, Anna E. and Ruth. Jessie, the youngest of the family, was born in Decatur, as were most of the other children, and for several years has been clerk in the Winnes Shoe Store.

Miss Annie E. Winnes was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was a small child when her parents brought her to Decatur, where she grew up and received her education in the local schools. In 1883 she began clerking for her father, and mastered all the fundamental principles of the business, so that she was well qualified to manage the store after her father's death. Miss Winnes is a member of the Evangelical Church, though her mother and most of the children are Baptists.

John Bernard Holthouse was a citizen who established a reputation second to none in point of business success and integrity of character in Adams County. For many years he was a well known and popular druggist, the oldest man in the profession in point of years and

experience. He was very popular with everyone who knew him and was regarded in the highest esteem by all and greatly admired for his manly and high ideals. For years he had been a leading figure about the city and on account of his safe and sound judgment his advice was sought on all sides. It was characteristic of him that he followed the light of his own counsels, and while never taking advantage of anyone succeeded in building up a considerable fortune and at the time of his death was one of the largest holders of real estate in the city. But with all his wealth he had always an open hand for the poor and needy, and donated liberally and delighted in seeing others not so fortunate as himself made happy.

John B. Holthouse was born February 27, 1855, on a farm two miles west of Decatur in Adams County. He lacked a month of celebrating his sixty-first birthday. His death followed a long and painful illness and occurred at his home on Third Street in Decatur, January 23, 1916. Mr. Holthouse belongs to pioneer stock in Adams County. His father Bernard Holthouse arrived in Adams County in 1837, and was one of the three or four pioneer Catholic settlers in the county, and one of the original members of St. Mary's Church, with which the Holthouse family have for many years been identified and to which John B. Holthouse during his life was one of the most liberal contributors. Bernard Holthouse was a native of Hanover, Germany, and came to Adams County about a year after his arrival in this country. He died in Washington Township in 1871.

John B. Holthouse was educated in the district schools, and while his advantages in that direction were somewhat limited he had that intellectual curiosity which makes a man a student all his life and hardly a day of his life but he added something to his acquisition of learning and gained the reputation of being a man of mature wisdom.

At the age of sixteen he went to Decatur and began clerking in the drug store of Doctor Dorwin, one of Adams County's best known early physicians. He set himself with enthusiasm to the task of learning the drug business, and mastered it and made it a profession. When Doctor Dorwin died Mr. Holthouse was in a position to succeed him in business, and he conducted the old store for many years with different partners. Later he owned and had other drug stores and at the time of his death there was still a Holthouse Drug Company, though he had had no active connection with it for several years. He was a man of many and varied business interests, and everything he touched seemed to prosper. At Bluffington he started and developed a cement business, which after a few years he sold out at a large profit. He added several store buildings to Decatur, and put up one of the largest and best livery barns in the county on North Second Street. He owned a fine home on North Third Street, and at different times acquired several farm properties both in Ohio and Indiana. At the time of his death he owned a place of 240 acres a mile north of Monroe in Adams County. In politics Mr. Holthouse was a democrat, and was active in his church and also in the Knights of Columbus and at the time of his death was deputy grand knight of the order.

The position he occupied so long in Decatur and the esteem in which he was held is well reflected in an editorial which appeared in the Daily Democrat at the time of his death. "The death of John B. Holthouse removes from this community a man who has been conspicuous in the banking and business life here for many years. (He was director and vice president of the First National Bank of Decatur.) He was industrious, careful and successful. He watched public officials, studied the workings of the local governmental machinery and had the courage, ability and took the time to advise and assist when and where he could.

He accumulated much of this world's goods and while it may not have been generally known was one of the most liberal and charitable men of the city, giving to every worthy cause and always without blare of trumpet, his donation being usually sent in a blank envelope. He met death with the same fearlessness that he met life, realizing for several weeks that he would have time only to arrange his affairs before the summons would come, yet he did not complain and quietly and carefully prepared. There was much in his life to be admired and his death is mourned by many besides his near relatives. It is a fitting tribute that business in Decatur cease during the last services for this good citizen."

In 1880 Mr. Holthouse married Miss Mary S. Gast of Louisville, Kentucky. She died in Decatur December 21, 1896. She was the mother of eight children, five of whom are still living: Louis, proprietor of the Holthouse Garage at Decatur, married and father of one son and two daughters; Clarence of Fort Wayne, who is married and has three daughters; May, wife of Robert McMahan of Chicago; Felix, who is a farmer east of Decatur and is married; Catherine, who took the veil in 1915 and is now known as Sister Mary Grace of the Order of St. Agnes, a teacher at Victoria, Kansas. On June 15, 1898, at Decator Mr. Holthouse married Miss Mary T. Reuland, who was born in Sauk County, Wisconsin, forty-eight years ago. She had lived in Decatur for two years before her marriage.

Mrs. Holthouse is of German ancestry. Her father, John Reuland, was born in Luxemberg, Germany, and when twelve years of age was brought to the United States by his parents who located as pioneers in Sauk County, Wisconsin, where they spent the rest of their years and where John grew to manhood and became a farmer. John Rueland married Barbara Liken, who was born in the city of Chicago when that metropolis was chiefly a small rural village surrounding Fort Dearborn. When she was very young her family removed to Southern Wisconsin and her parents spent the rest of their active lives as farmers in Sauk County. John Reuland and wife were Sauk County farmers and he died at the age of seventy and his wife at forty-five. They were very active members of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Holthouse besides rearing and looking after her large family has done much work in St. Mary's Church, is a member of the Red Cross Society and is active in St. Vincent de Paul Society. She became the mother of eight children, and the six still living are Jessie, John, Margaret, Hugh, Helen and Robert, the last now four years of age. Jessie was educated in the local parochial schools and St. Mary's College at Notre Dame. John is now a student in St. Joseph College at Rensselaer, Indiana. The other children except Robert are students in the parochial schools.

William T. Waggoner is the fortunate owner of one of the well cultivated and valuable farms of Monroe Township, Adams County, land that has responded to his efforts as an agriculturist for nearly forty years. His own and his family name are possessed of many interesting and prominent associations in Adams County, and the Waggoners have not given all their time to looking after their selfish interests and have considered it a duty to do what they could and what seemed a just share of that work which is for the common good and the general benefit of the community.

Mr. Waggoner was born at Lexington, Richland County, Ohio, March 12, 1857, son of Henry R. and Sarah (Lizar) Waggoner. Henry Waggoner was a native of Pennsylvania, and from 1855 to 1865 lived with his family in Richland County, Ohio. He was a cabinet maker and also a

wagon maker, and on coming to Indiana he settled in Blue Creek Township of Adams County, obtaining forty acres in the midst of the heavy woods. Some of this he cleared and improved, putting up a log house and a log barn, and the former structure is still standing. However, he was not so much of a farmer as he was a mechanic, and after coming to Adams County he worked most of the year at his trade in the Shackley Wheel Company at Decatur, and remained with the firm until the plant was destroyed by an explosion in 1871. The following three years he was employed by Alexander Harper in Wiltshire, and after that conducted a wagon shop on his farm in Blue Creek Township until 1893. In that year he removed to Berne and lived a retired life. His wife died March 10, 1898, and his remaining years he spent in the homes of his children. He died widely honored and esteemed on September 16, 1905. He was a republican voter and a member of the Christian Church.

Henry Waggoner married for his first wife Elizabeth Frankenberger of Seneca County, Pennsylvania. She left three children, Elry H., John J. and Elizabeth R. Sarah Lizar, his second wife, was the daughter of John Lizar, one of the ablest hunters and most skillful trappers known among the early settlers of Northeastern Indiana. He was thoroughly acquainted with frontier conditions in this part of the United States, and in the early days he hauled grain to the water mill at St. Mary. As a hunter he followed his game over land that is now included on the farm of his grandson, William T. Waggoner. Henry Waggoner and his wife, Sarah, had children named Alma C., William T., Charles, Anna B., Allen G., Mary W. and Frank P. Frank was the only one born after the parents moved to Adams County, the others claiming Pennsylvania or Ohio as their birthplaces.

William T. Waggoner was about eight years of age when the family moved across the state line into Adams County, and his early years were spent chiefly on the farm in Blue Creek Township. His education was that supplied by the common schools of the time. As a boy he learned wagon making in his father's shop, but his most profitable years have been devoted to farming. In 1879 after his marriage he located on the place that he now owns in Monroe Township. His wife had thirty acres from her father's estate and on January 12, 1882, bought sixty acres from Jacob Shroll. These ninety acres have been developed into a model farm, improved with substantial buildings, and with a system of management which lacks nothing in effectiveness and in all that is necessary for profitable farming in Northeastern Indiana. Mr. Waggoner has done much with livestock, including Shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs and Shropshire sheep.

The only important interruption to his continued work as a farmer was four years from 1889 to 1893, during Harrison's administration, when he served as postmaster of the Village of Berne. He left the farm to take that office, handled it in a most creditable manner, and left it to go back to his crops and livestock in Monroe Township. He has also served as supervisor of the township for four years. He is a republican in politics, a member of the Christian Church, and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Berne.

On December 27, 1877, Mr. Waggoner married Miss Julia A. Heddington, daughter of Laban and Sarah (Daniels) Heddington. Her parents were both natives of Mount Vernon, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner have no children. Mrs. Waggoner has had brothers and sisters named Samuel, Lhamon, George, Isabelle, Minerva and Arminda. Arminda married Daniel A. Miller of Adams County and Minerva became the wife of Joseph Murphy of this county. Mrs. Waggoner's parents

were natives of Knox County, Ohio, and her father died in May, 1871, and her mother in October, 1897.

Daniel Mazelin. Some of the best cultivated farms and some of the most interest families are found in the community around Berne in Adams County. One of these families is that represented by Mr. Daniel Mazelin, whose home is in Monroe Township on Rural Route No. 4 out of Berne.

He belongs to that hardy and virile stock that have had so much to do with the development of this section of Adams County from a pioneer wilderness. He was born at Berne May 15, 1863, son of Frank and Barbara (Schwartz) Mazelin. Frank Mazelin was born in France December 15, 1837, and was brought to America at the age of two and a half years. The mother was born in France May 7, 1840, and came to this country in 1853. After their marriage they located on eighty acres of land in Monroe Township, in section 20, and the clearing and improving of this farm, together with the rearing of a large family of children, constitute the best memorials to the worthy lives of the parents. There are eight living children: Daniel, Mary, Peter F., David F., Anna, Katie, Elizabeth and John F. Peter is a stonemason by trade and John is a shoemaker at Berne.

Daniel Mazelin came to manhood with a good equipment of knowledge gained in schools, religious instruction at the hands of his parents and the church, and with the discipline and energy of the well trained farm boy. He has lived on his present farm of eighty acres since 1892. The land had been bought by his father in 1881 and its clearing and development was largely left to Daniel and his brother John, who bought the farm in 1904. Mr. Mazelin's land is of a high grade of soil and it has excellent building equipment. Mr. Mazelin is noted among his fellows in that section of Adams County for his industry and the methodical way in which he handles every department of his business.

On December 10, 1891, he married Katie Lengacher, daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Schwartz) Lengacher. Jacob Lengacher was born in Switzerland November 19, 1834, and his wife was born in Ohio August 15, 1843. On coming to Indiana they settled on eighty acres of land in Allen County. Both the parents of Mrs. Mazelin are now deceased, her mother having passed away May 17, 1913. Besides Mrs. Mazelin the other children in the Lengacher family are John J., Daniel J., Anna, Joseph, Margaret, Christ, Mary and Jacob. The Lengachers were all members of the Amish Church and Mr. Mazelin and family belong to the Amish Christian Church in Monroe Township.

Much of the inspiration that has directed the energies of Mr. Mazelin in his farm has come from the presence of a numerous household of lively children, some of whom are now grown and others still in school. The family consists of eleven children, named as follows: Margaret, who was born February 6, 1893. and is now the wife of Samuel Nussbaum of Adams County; Jacob, born October 26, 1894, is now at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, under guard for refusing to perform military service in any way or form as it is against his religious belief as Christ forbids revenge; David, born March 10, 1898; Peter, born September 14, 1899, and died aged two years and three months; John, born February 27, 1901; Barbara, born February 23, 1903; Noah, born April 10, 1905; Benjamin, born May 16, 1907; Martha, born April 3, 1909; Leona, born August 27, 1911; and Amos, born November 20, 1914, and died May 27, 1915.

M. F. Parrish, M. D. An active and well-known physician of Monroe, M. F. Parrish, M. D., has an extensive practice, and through his skill has won for himself a prominent and honorable name in the medical

circles of Adams County. A son of Abner Parrish, he was born, March 15, 1873, in Adams County, Indiana, coming from substantial ancestry on both sides of the house.

Born in Ohio, Abner Parrish came to Adams County, Indiana, as a young man. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil war, he enlisted in the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and, according to the well-authenticated reports of his fellow-comrades, many of whom are still living, he was one of the bravest soldiers of his regiment. Hardy, as well as courageous, he came out of the army with a fine record for health and endurance, having spent not one day in the hospital. After the close of the conflict, he settled on eighty acres of land in Adams County, and the log cabin in which he and his wife began life together is still standing, being now used as a stable. He died in Decatur in August, 1910. His wife, whose maiden name was Ellen Bollinger, was born in Adams County, where she spent her entire life, dying March 22, 1873, seven days after the birth of her son, M. F. She left two children, namely: Florence, and M. F. Florence married Lewis Miller, has four children, Harry, a soldier in the United States National Army; Herman, with the Aviation Corps, in Texas; Emma; and Clarence.

Completing his early studies in the common and graded schools of Adams County, M. F. Parrish attended a more advanced school in Lebanon, Ohio, after which he entered the Indiana University, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D., in April, 1897, receiving his diploma on the ninth day of that month. On April 22, 1897, Doctor Parrish began the practice of his profession. The country roundabout was then rough, and the roads at times almost impassable, and his visits, many of them, were necessarily made on horseback. He made rapid strides in his profession from the start, and deserves credit for the position he has won, not only as a successful physician, but as a respected and esteemed citizen. The doctor is also actively interested in the agricultural affairs of Adams County, owning a well cultivated farm of eighty-five acres in Washington Township, a short distance from Monroe.

On April 18, 1897, Doctor Parrish married Minnie Reed, a native of Fremont, Ohio. Her parents, George and Katherine (Gnepper) Reed, who are still residents of Ohio, reared three children, Clarence, Mary and Minnie. The Doctor and Mrs. Parrish have no children of their own, but they have an adopted daughter, Mary, now ten years old. The Doctor is a man of excellent financial and executive ability, and is now the owner and manager of the Monroe Telephone system, which, operating through six townships, controls 400 telephones. He also served for a few years as president of the Monroe State Bank.

Emil Fluckiger. A man of integrity and worth, energetic and capable, Emil Fluckiger of Monroe Township occupies an excellent position among the prosperous agriculturists of Adams County, his large and well improved farm, with its fine residence and substantial outbuildings being one of the most attractive in the vicinity, and reflecting credit on his good judgment and ability. A native of Switzerland, he was born February 12, 1871. His father, John Fluckiger, spent his entire life in Switzerland, dying April 7, 1898. His widow, whose maiden name was Marianna Neuschwander, came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1905, and was here a resident until her death, November 8, 1917. She was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church, and her body lies buried in the Mennonite Cemetery, at Berne.

Educated in his native land, Emil Fluckiger remained beneath the parental roof until twenty years old. Being impressed with the glowing reports of agricultural life in the United States, he then immigrated to Indiana, locating in Monroe Township, November 1, 1891. He worked

by the month as a farm hand for a short time, becoming used to the American methods, and in 1902 had accumulated a sufficient sum of money to warrant him in buying eighty acres of his present property. Working with a will, Mr. Fluckiger subsequently bought 120 acres of adjoining land, and now has a fine farm of 200 acres, which, with its improvements, constitutes one of the most beautiful and desirable estates in the community.

Mr. Fluckiger married Caroline Lehman, who was born January 8, 1871, in Switzerland, where her parents, Abraham and Marianna (Neukum) Lehman, were life-long residents. Mrs. Fluckiger has two brothers, Karl and David, and four sisters, Emma, Leah, Paulina, and Matilda. Into the pleasant household of Mr. and Mrs. Fluckiger ten children have made their advent, namely: Samuel, born July 9, 1895; Karl, born January 9, 1897; Elmer, born January 16, 1898; Kliffert, born June 26, 1899; Olga, born February 14, 1901; Tillman, born April 25, 1903; Albert, born March 10, 1905; Senaid, born June 20, 1907; Minda, born October 26, 1909; and Elda, born July 28, 1912. Mr. Fluckiger, who has his registry papers from Switzerland, was naturalized in Indiana, and is a true and loyal citizen. Religiously he and his family belong to the Mennonite Church.

Clark J. Lutz. The Adams County Bar has for many years looked upon Clark J. Lutz as one of its dominating personalities and an attorney with few peers in this circuit.

His active experience as a lawyer covers more than thirty years and he has indeed lived a busy life, since when a mere boy he was active as a merchant. He was admitted to the bar in 1885, having studied law two years with the firm of France & Merryman. In passing it is not inappropriate to refer to the late Mr. France as one of the very ablest lawyers who ever graced the profession in northeastern Indiana. Mr. Merryman is still in active practice at Decatur and is a former judge of the Circuit bench.

There is interest in recalling Mr. Lutz's maiden efforts as a lawyer. He was employed to look after the interests of one of the contesting parties at a trial in Blue Creek Township before a justice of the peace. The litigants were Warner Kelsey and Frank Steele. Kelsey had brought suit against Steele on a claim for real estate. Mr. Lutz was Kelsey's lawyer and the case was tried before a jury who found for the plaintiff, and thus gave Mr. Lutz his earliest triumphs and laurels in the law. For his fee he received ten cords of wood, worth probably twenty dollars at that time.

Mr. Lutz recalls all the incidents and details of that first trial with perhaps greater clearness than of many vastly more important cases which he has subsequently had a part in. Another early case that gave him considerable reputation was one which he carried to the Supreme Court of the state. The title of this case was Route vs. Ninde. This time he was on the defense. After carrying the matter for his client up to the Supreme Court he got a reversal of an earlier decision. He thus early appeared before the State Supreme Court in 1886 when a young lawyer of about twenty-three. In 1890, Mr. Lutz was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney of Adams County. From 1900 to 1915 he was county attorney. Through all the years he has had his share of practice and has probably won a large majority of his cases. He was admitted to practice in the Federal District Court in 1903 and in 1908 admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Lutz was born at Williamsport in Allen County, Indiana, March 14, 1862, and secured his early education in local schools, and later for a

time was a student in the Decator High School. At the age of sixteen he engaged in the drug and mercantile business at Williamsport with his brother, the late Jacob S. Lutz, who has been deceased now for many years. The business was conducted under the name Lutz Brothers. On October 8, 1882, Mr. Lutz came to Decatur primarily for the purpose of attending high school, and in 1883 went into the real estate business with J. F. France. This firm was dissolved in 1884 and at that time he took up his studies of law with the firm of France & Merryman. He began active practice in January, 1886. Mr. Lutz has accumulated one of the finest law libraries in the county and besides all the standard authorities he keeps a complete line of the Indiana and Ohio state reports, the latter especially to help him in his practice which extends to Ohio. Mr. Lutz is of German ancestry and until the present generation the name was usually spelled Luts. His great-grandfather came from Germany and located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he married and where he spent the rest of his years. His son Jacob, grandfather of the Decatur lawyer, was born in Pennsylvania toward the close of the eighteenth century, married there and in early times removed to Stark County, Ohio, where he did farming in a new and unsettled district and where he and his wife spent their last years.

Samuel Lutz, father of Clark J., was born in Stark County, Ohio, about 1830. He married Marie Lucinda Lichtenwater, who was born in Stark County about the same time as her husband. Her parents were Pennsylvania people of German ancestry, the Lichtenwaters being among the pioneer farmers of Stark County, Ohio. Samuel Lutz and wife had one child, Alonzo, who was born in Stark County, but died at the age of sixteen. After the birth of this child the family removed in 1852 to Allen County, Ohio, making the journey by boat over the old Wabash and Miami Canal to Fort Wayne. From Fort Wayne they walked out to take possession of their new home in the wilds of Marion Township and there built a log cabin. Samuel Lutz was a man of industry and good character, and in the course of years had one of the finest farms in Allen County, comprising 160 acres and several sets of farm buildings. This fine farm is now owned and occupied by his daughter Mrs. Charles True, who was born on the old homestead. Mrs. True has a son named Brice. Samuel Lutz died on that homestead in 1906 and his wife passed away in 1892. He was a republican in politics, but afterwards became a pioneer in prohibition ranks and cast a vote for General Weaver. Besides Clark J. Lutz and Mrs. True one other child of Samuel Lutz is still living, William, a bachelor, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. True on the old farm.

Clark J. Lutz married in Adams County Miss Anna M. Lewis on October 14, 1886. Mrs. Lutz was born at Zanesville, Ohio, September 22, 1862, and was an infant when her mother died. Her father Joseph V. Lewis was a physician and died at Dayton, Ohio, in 1891. Her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth McGonagle, daughter of Joseph V. McGonagle, who for many years was editor of the Shelby County, Ohio, Democrat and later of the Decatur Democrat. Mr. McGonagle died at Decatur in 1891. In 1879 Mrs. Lutz went to the home of her grandparents McGonagle in Adams County and grew up there, acquiring a liberal education. She attended the Conservatory of Music at Fort Wayne, was also a pupil of the noted Emil Liebling of Chicago and for several years was a successful teacher of music at Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Lutz have long been prominent as social leaders in Decatur. He is affiliated with the Lodge of Masonry and has been active in the democratic party ever since coming to Decatur, prominent in its councils and often acting as a delegate to its conventions.

Mrs. Lutz died at her home in Decatur June 14, 1917, in her fifty-fifth year. She was a very active member in the First Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Lutz has served as an elder for thirty-one years. They had one daughter, Jean, who completed her education in the Woman's College at Oxford, Ohio, and at the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston. In 1914 she became the wife of Fred R. Smith of Decatur and they make their home with Mr. Clark Lutz, though they have a place of their own at Brookside, near the city. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one son, Clark William Smith, born in April, 1916. Mr. Clark Lutz finds his greatest comfort and delight in this promising young grandson.

Erastus Fritzinger is treasurer and manager of the Decatur Foundry, Furnace and Machine Company, and from the first has been the moving spirit in the success and management of that important local industry. The company was incorporated in 1909, and the present officers are: John S. Bowers, president; Dinas Schmitt, vice president; L. A. Graham, secretary; and Erastus Fritzinger, treasurer and manager. This is one of the largest industrial plants located in Decatur. The special commodities manufactured are freight elevators, of which there is a large output, and they are sold in practically every state of the Union. From twelve to fifteen men, foundrymen and machinists, find employment with the plant.

The industry was originally the old Decatur Furnace Company, and the plant was taken over in a decadent condition and has been thoroughly rehabilitated and made efficient under the present management.

Mr. Fritzinger has been a resident of Decatur since 1881. He was born in Pennsylvania May 26, 1856, six miles from Mauchunk. He grew up and received his advantages in the local schools there, and in early life followed his inclination for mechanical industry. For seven years he was a machinist in the car shops of the Lehigh Valley Railway Company and it was with this thorough experience that he came to Decatur. Here he entered business as a carpenter contractor and in the course of time acquired varied other interests. For eighteen years he was a retail lumber merchant and for eight or ten years operated a quarry. He had lived practically retired from business for about a year before he took the management of the Foundry Company and it has been through him that this industry has been prospered and developed to successful proportions.

Mr. Fritzinger is a son of Levi and Amanda (Miller) Fritzinger. Both were born in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, and spent their lives there, dying when well advanced in years. Mr. Fritzinger's great-grandfather was one of the Hessian soldiers hired by the British government to fight the revolting American colonies in the Revolutionary war. He afterwards became a good American citizen, and his son Jacob, grandfather of Erastus Fritzinger, married an English girl and settled down on a farm in Pennsylvania. The Fritzingers as far back as the record goes, have been identified with the Reformed Church while the Miller branch of the lineage were Lutherans.

Levi Fritzinger, father of Erastus, enlisted at the first call for troops in 1861 and after the expiration of his first term re-enlisted and saw active service in the Union armies until the close of the struggle. He escaped wounds and injuries and on returning home followed his trade until his death at the age of seventy-five. His wife passed away at the age of sixty-two. They were active members of the Reformed Church.

Erastus Fritzinger was third in a family of three sons and five daughters, all of whom married, all but one had children, and six of

them are still living. His brother Oscar died in Adams County, Indiana, leaving a widow and three children. The mother of these children was one of a family of twelve, all of whom grew up and all sat with their parents for a photograph after the youngest had reached mature years. Mrs. Levi Fritzinger was the first death in the family circle.

Erastus Fritzinger married in Adams County Rachel Huffman. She was born in this county fifty-six years ago, and has always lived here. Her parents William D. and Catherine (Zimmerman) Huffman were natives of Pennsylvania, but first met and married in Adams County, Indiana, and by their industry acquired a good farm in Kirkland Township. Mrs. Fritzinger's mother died there when past seventy and her father then retired to Fort Wayne where he is quite vigorous at the age of seventy-five. Both were Reformed Church people and he is a democrat.

Mr. and Mrs. Fritzinger have two children. Mary M., thirty-four years old, is a graduate of the Decatur schools and of the Fort Wayne International Business College, and is now bookkeeper in his father's plant and a very skilled and useful man in the business. He married Manna Couter, who was born in Adams County and educated here. They have a daughter, Catherine R., now attending school. Harry Fritzinger is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge and Chapter and with the Scottish Rite bodies at Fort Wayne. The second son, Robert M., thirty years old, was educated in the public schools and is now a practical farmer in St. Mary's Township. He married Emma Davidson, and their two children Fay and Mary are both attending school. Erastus Fritzinger and his youngest son are both affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 65 at Decatur.

Herman M. Gillig. The milling industry of Adams County is well represented at Decatur by two flouring mills, both conducted under the name Fornax Milling Company, of which Herman M. Gillig, a practical young miller, is secretary and general manager. The other officers comprising this company are: H. H. Bremerkamp, president; C. B. Strickler, vice president, another practical miller; and G. C. Shosenberger, treasurer, all residents of Decatur, all members of the firm, and all well and favorably known as reliable and straightforward men of business. The mills are known as No. 1, this on the south, and No. 2, on the north, and both are operated by steam. The brands manufactured are the Golden Dove, Bob White and Blue Ribbon flours, and the Golden Dove meal, and shipments are made extensively throughout Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky, while the company purchases locally. Thirteen people are given employment at this time in the mill, which is increasing its business steadily, and the company is capitalized at $10,000, of which $5,000 represents the surplus. The No. 1 mill was built some ten years ago by Mr. Bremerkamp, and was known as the Fornax Mill, subsequently becoming a part of the company when it was organized in 1915.

Herman M. Gillig, secretary and general manager of the Fornax Milling Company, may be said to have grown up to the trade, working and being associated with many mills in this state and Ohio. He was born near Decatur, Indiana, November 12, 1884, grew up in this city, where he received his education in the parochial schools, and commenced his experience at the milling trade at Fort Recovery, Ohio. Subsequently he went to Lexington, Ohio, and Mansfield in the same state, and then returned to Indiana and for fifteen years has been connected with mills at Pennville, Decatur and other points. He was with the old Fornax mill for several years, and in 1915, when the organiza-

tion of the new company was effected, was placed in his present positions, in which he has the entire confidence of his associates. He is a young man of energy, enterprise and practical ideas, progressive in thought and action, and a tireless worker.

Mr. Gillig comes of a good family, being a son of Conrad and Mary (Appleman) Gillig, natives of Ohio, and both of German ancestry through their grandparents, the two families having come to the United States at about the same time, the older members passing their lives in Ohio, where they died. After their marriage, and the birth of their five younger children, Conrad and Mary Gillig came to Adams County, thirty-five years ago, and purchased a farm in Washington Township, where they passed many years in the pursuits of agriculture. Herman M. Gillig was the first of five children to be born to his parents in Adams County. Of the ten children in the family eight are still living, and five of these are married. Some years ago the parents retired from active pursuits and removed to Decatur, where, in the neighborhood of their pleasant home on Mercer Avenue, they have numerous friends. They have lived honest, industrious, God-fearing lives, and now, in their declining years, are enjoying the comforts that their years of toil brought them as a reward. Mr. Gillig is seventy years of age and his wife sixty-eight, but both are remarkably well preserved, in possession of all their faculties, and as active as many people many years their junior, while Mrs. Gillig's hair does not yet show the touch of gray. They and all their children belong to St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Gillig and his sons are all democrats.

Herman M. Gillig was married at Decatur, to Miss Leona A. Harting, who was born in Ohio, February 20, 1888, but grew up at Decatur, where she was educated in the parochial schools. She is a daughter of William and Catherine (Knopke) Harting, natives of Ohio, of German descent. They were farming people for many years, but are now retired from active pursuits and are living in a pleasant home on North Third Street, Decatur. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. and Mrs. Gillig have one child, Helen Catherine, born March 23, 1918. They are faithful members of St. Mary's Catholic Church and are well and favorably known at Decatur, Mr. Gillig being especially popular with his fellow-members in the local order of the Knights of Columbus. He has various holdings and business interests, and at present is serving as vice president of the Peoples Loan and Trust Company, having become interested in that company two years ago.

JOSHUA SPRUNGER. An active, enterprising and well-to-do agriculturist of Adams County, and an able business man, Joshua Sprunger owns and occupies a well-improved farm in Monroe Township, where he stands second to none among the prosperous and substantial members of his community. He was born December 24, 1858, in Wayne County, Ohio, a son of David Sprunger, and grandson of John and Elizabeth Sprunger.

Coming with his family from Ohio to Indiana in 1859, David Sprunger bought eighty acres of wild land in Adams County, just east of Berne, and there labored with unceasing toil until he had a large part of it under tillage and substantially improved. On the farm which he cleared he spent the remainder of his life, dying December 25, 1916, at an advanced age. His wife, whose maiden name was Barbara Lehman, died on the home farm, August 3, 1874. Both were valued members of the Mennonite Church.

Brought by his parents to Monroe Township while yet an infant, Joshua Sprunger was brought up on the home farm, and in his youth-

ful days was well instructed in lessons of industry, economy, and integrity. Having made a practical study of the various branches of agriculture, he chose farming for his occupation, and on May 15, 1896, settled on his present farm, which contains eighty acres of rich and arable land. Ffteen acres of the estate Mr. Sprunger cleared himself and added all of the improvements. The remarkable success with which he has met during his career as a farmer has been brought about by his persistent energy, well directed toil and good business judgment; and he is well deserving of the respect and confidence so generously accorded him by his fellow-townsmen. In his political relations Mr. Sprunger is a democrat.

Mr. Sprunger married, May 15, 1882, Elizabeth Habegger, who was born in Switzerland, and came to this country with her parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Lehman) Habegger. She has several brothers and sisters living, as follows: Abraham, Jacob, Peter, Solomon, Mary, David, Benjamin, and Francis Louis. Eleven children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Sprunger namely: Levina, born February 15, 1883, married John Fungunton and has three children, Howard, Marie, and Harry J.; Celina, born on May 24, 1884, married Emanuel Neuenschwander and has three children Adeline, Glenn, and Ida; Cora born December 20, 1885, married Otto Stucky of Adams County and has three children, Lewelyn, Lillian, and Gerald; Ida, born April 23, 1888, married Dr. Rufus Fungunton and has two children, Annabelle and Fred; George, born October 4, 1889, married Carrie Boditcher, of Wayne County, Ohio, and they have two children, Royal and Vernell; Millie, born February 5, 1891, is the wife of Walter Liechty, of Adams County, and has one child, Ernest E.; Andrew married Kate Liechty of Ohio and has two children, Mabel and Roman; Alfred, born June 25, 1894; David, born April 20, 1896; Clinton, born May 8, 1898; and Viola, born November 28, 1899. All are members of the Mennonite Church.

Manas Lehman. The qualities of a good business man have been proved over and over again in the case of Manas Lehman, one of Adams County's most progressive merchants and now an active partner in the firm of Liechty Brothers & Company at Monroe.

Mr. Lehman represents an old and honored family name of Adams County. He was born within the limits of the county on November 8, 1885, a son of Peter and Christina (Luginbell) Lehman. His father was born in Switzerland November 3, 1847, and the mother is a native of Adams County. The Lehman family came to Adams County in pioneer days and were well known in the Swiss colony which gave character to all the activities and the social life of that large section of the county in and around Berne. Peter Lehman and wife after their marriage settled on a farm west of Berne. This farm is now within the city limits. It comprised eighty acres, all of which is cleared and in cultivation, and its fields and other resources were actively handled by Peter Lehman until about two years ago, when he turned over the farm to younger hands and he and his wife moved into a comfortable home they erected at the corner of the farm and within the Village of Berne. Here they are still living in comfort and retirement. Their children are: Lydia, wife of John Kirchofer, of Adams County; Louisa, wife of Eli Baumgartner, of Adams County; Levina, who married Andrew Bailey, of Adams County; Emanuel, who married Adaline Liechty, of Adams County; Amos, who married Viola Wolf; Manas; Wilber E., who married Della Neuenschwander; Lila, who became the wife of Otto E. Sprunger; and Delson.

Mr. Manas Lehman was educated in the schools of his home township and the Village of Berne and for one year attended a college at Newton, Kansas. He had a very vigorous and wholesome discipline on the home farm up to the age of twenty-one, after which he gained his first experience by employment in a general store at Berne with the firm Sprunger, Lehman & Company. He was there two years, and on August 4, 1909, engaged in the dry goods business for himself. He was an independent merchant six years, but on March 1, 1916, became a partner in the general hardware and implement house of Liechty Brothers & Company at Monroe. Mr. Lehman votes an independent ticket in politics. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Church.

On March 19, 1916, he married Miss Sylvia Hendricks, daughter of Levi and Viola Hendricks. Both her parents are natives of Adams County and she was educated in Monroe Township. Mrs. Lehman's brothers and sister are Chester L., Vivian and Frank.

Ben S. Colter is one of the capable educators of Adams County and for ten years has been principal of the Bobo graded schools.

He was born in Ohio September 26, 1873, son of Henry and Ellen E. (Rennels) Colter. Reference to his father and other members of the family is found on other pages of this publication. Ben S. Colter spent the first eight years of his life in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and came with the family in 1881 to Adams County. Here he attended public schools, and after reaching manhood became associated with his father in the saw mill business. He continued in that line actively from twenty-one to thirty-one years of age. He is a man of scholarly tastes and pursuits, and has supplemented the advantages of the common schools by courses in Valparaiso University and Purdue University. In 1906 he began teaching, and has taught steadily now for twelve years and has spent seven consecutive terms as superintendent of the graded schools at Bobo. He has built up these schools and made them a real factor in the education and training of the youth of the community and the efficiency of the schools is practically a monument to him.

In 1902 Mr. Colter married Mary Dailey, daughter of Joseph Dailey. They have three sons, Donald D. Cotter, who is a graduate of the common schools and has spent one year in high school at Pleasant Mills; Dean, in the grade schools; and Robert, the youngest of the family. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. Colter voices his political sentiments as republican. He is also interested in farming and has a small farm of forty-three acres in St. Mary's Township.

Charles D. Schenck is a practical farmer and one of the live and progressive citizens of St. Mary's Township. He is a man of liberal education and to an unusual degree has thoroughly utilized all the opportunities of life.

Mr. Schenck was born on the farm where he now resides, November 22, 1876, a son of Rev. D. J. and Amanda (Fordyce) Schenck. His father was born in Maryland in 1833 but spent his boyhood days near Willshire, Ohio. He attended public school and prepared himself for work as a teacher. He taught in common schools and also was an instructor of music. He finally entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church and for many years was an honored elder and hard working minister of that denomination. His last charge was at Portland, Indiana. Rev. Mr. Schenck married Amanda Fordyce on August 6, 1871. She was born in Ohio in 1844 and was brought to Adams County, Indiana, in 1845. She became the mother of four children:

Margaret, formerly a teacher, now the wife of Curtis W. Campbell of Pleasant Mills; Grace, unmarried; Charles D.; and D. J., Jr., who was well educated in local schools and in the University at Valparaiso and was in the real estate business at Detroit, Michigan, at the time of his death, March 24, 1917. Rev. D. J. Schenck by a previous marriage had eight children, four of whom died in infancy: Rev. J. W., a graduate of the Portland High School, afterwards of a theological course, and now a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Minnesota; Ida, who is a graduate of the Portland schools and is now the wife of Dr. P. W. Fishbaugh of Mendon, Ohio; Ella, who graduated from the Portland, Indiana, High School and from a Bible College in Chicago, took up missionary work under the auspices of the United Brethren Church, spent four years of faithful service in Africa, and after her second return to that missionary field was killed there; Horace, a civil engineer who was drowned in White Face River in Minnesota.

Charles D. Schenck grew up on the home farm where he now lives, had a common school education, and also attended college at Valparaiso. After completing his education he took up farming, and has contributed his modest part both in former years and in the present to that volume of agricultural supplies which are necessary to the sustenance of the world.

June 20, 1905, he married Wilma Cowan. Mrs. Schenck was born in St. Mary's Township February 22, 1876, daughter of John and Amy (Dailey) Cowan. Mrs. Schenck is a highly educated and cultured woman. She graduated from the common schools, was a teacher for six years and finished her education in Valparaiso University, from which she received both the degrees Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. Mr. and Mrs. Schenck have four children: Margaret, born March 11, 1906; Helen, born March 22, 1908; Amy, born April 27, 1913; and John, born August 27, 1915. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant Mills. Mr. Schenck has always been interested in church matters and is one of the trustees of the home church. Fraternally he and his wife are members of the Gleaners and of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he votes as a republican.

Henry Lehrman is one of Adams County's well known citizens who started life with no particular advantages and assets and by self-denial, thrift and industry have gradually accumulated those means which represent financial independence. He and his family reside on one of the well managed farms of Union Township.

Mr. Lehrman was born in Switzerland August 22, 1864, son of Ferdinand and Verina (Ehrman) Lehrman. His parents brought their family to the United States in 1871, and at that time located in Adams County and spent here the remainder of their industrial career. The father died in Root Township in 1906 and his wife in 1912. They had seven children, six sons and one daughter: Henry; Godfried, a farmer in Union Township; Harmon who lives at Fort Wayne and is connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad; Albert, a carpenter at Decatur; Sophia, wife of Fred Shamlow of Allen County; Ferdinand, a farmer in Root Township; and Charles, a Union Township farmer.

Henry Lehrman was seven years old when brought to Adams County. He grew up on the farm, had the advantages of the common schools, and has made what he has by hard work begun in early life and carried on and sustained to the present time.

On April 5, 1894, he married Mary E. Barkley, a native of Union Township. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lehrman moved to Union Township and located on forty acres. That has been the nucleus of their

farming enterprise, and gradually their scope of operations expanded until Mr. and Mrs. Lehrman now own 260 acres in one body, constituting one of the most profitable places of the county in two farms. Mr. Lehrman has made most of his money in stock and grain. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church and other members of the family are United Brethren in church faith. Politically he is a democrat.

Mr. and Mrs. Lehrman have a family of nine children living, John H., Simon, Lillian, Paul and Harry twins, Delbert, Daniel, Mary and Lloyd, the deceased children being Otto Godfried, Mabel Irene and David.

David J. Mazelin. A man of enterprise, and excellent business capacity, David J. Mazelin, whose home is in Monroe Township, stands high among the progressive farmers of this section of Adams County. The family name is one significant and synonymous with industry and persevering toil and honorable rectitude in Adams County, and his own career has been in keeping with the reputation made by his forefathers.

Mr. Mazelin was born in Monroe Township August 16, 1882, a son of James and Barbara (Miller) Mazelin. His paternal grandparents were Peter and Theresa Mazelin, both of whom came to the United States from France. The maternal grandfather was Peter Miller. Peter Mazelin, the grandfather, on coming to Adams County, located eighty acres in Monroe Township, a farm now owned by David Schwartz. The grandfather took the land in its wild and primitive condition and for some days he and his family lived under a large tree until the first log cabin home could be constructed. As the years went by the land became cultivated, and constituted a good home for the family. James Mazelin, father of David J., was born in Adams County and died here April 10, 1910. His wife, who was born in France, died October 25, 1892. James Mazelin married for his first wife Elizabeth Schwartz, daughter of John and Anna (Ramseyor) Schwartz. The children of that union were Rosina, Anna and Elizabeth. By his marriage to Barbara Miller he was the father of Mary, David J., Daniel, Emma and Lydia.

David J. Mazelin married January 13, 1907, Miss Mary Schwartz, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Liechty) Schwartz. Her father was born in France in 1842 and her mother in French Township of Adams County in 1847. They married February 28, 1867, and first located on eighty acres of rented land, but subsequently bought a farm of forty acres. Mrs. Mazelin's mother died August 3, 1907, and her father is still living in French Township. He married for his second wife Mary Moser, daughter of John Moser. Mrs. Mazelin's father belongs to the Defenseless Mennonite Church. Mrs. Mazelin's brothers and sisters are Jacob J., John J., David J., Solomon J., C. W. R., J. K. L., Rosina, Catherine, Rachel and Sarah.

Mr. and Mrs. Mazelin have a little family of three interesting children named Venus, born August 8, 1911; Dessie, born November 1, 1913; and Ruth, born January 26, 1916.

Mr. Mazelin settled on his present farm of forty acres in January, 1910. He has some good land, a comfortable home with good building improvements including a fine silo. He specializes in the dairy industry and has some high grade Holstein cows. Mr. and Mrs. Mazelin are members of the Christian Amish Church.

Charles W. Feasel. An excellent representative of the self-made men of Adams County, Charles W. Feasel started out in life without a penny to his name, for a few years being variously employed. A young man of good habits, industrious and faithful, frugal in his expenditures, and wise in his savings, he accumulated quite a sum of money, and hav-

ing judiciously cultivated the land which he bought, is now numbered among the more prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Blue Creek Township. A son of the late John Feasel, he was born in Adams County, in Blue Creek Township, January 27, 1874.

John Feasel, a native of Columbus, Ohio, settled in Adams County, this state, in 1872. Buying eighty acres of land in Blue Creek Township, he added to the improvements which had previously been made, clearing some of it, and erecting a house and barn. He was subsequently engaged in farming until his death, March 3, 1885, when but fifty-three years old. He married Mrs. Rebecca J. (Tyndall) Ruby. She was born in Crawford County, Ohio, a daughter of William and Lydia Tyndall, and widow of William Ruby of Adams County, Indiana, who died in early life, leaving her with three small children, William H. Ruby, Aline Ruby, and Frank Ruby, deceased. Of her union with John Feasel there were three children, namely: Charles W., of this sketch; Ida M.; and Viola. The mother survived her second husband, dying November 5, 1909.

Having acquired a substantial knowledge of the various branches of agriculture while working for others, Charles W. Feasel invested his hard-earned money in land, in 1904 buying fifty-four acres of land in Blue Creek Township. Laboring incessantly and intelligently, he was successful in his venture, and in 1909 purchased the adjoining tract of forty acres, known as the "Adam Sypher's Farm," which he has ditched, fenced, and improved with a good set of buildings, his estate being now one of the best in its improvements and appointments of any in the locality, being a credit to his industry and good management.

Mr. Feasel married, October 28, 1894, Emma M. Saum, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, being a daughter of Daniel and Louise Saum, who reared four other children, Mary E., Bertha O., Charles C., and Leah P. Mr. and Mrs. Feasel have seven children, namely: John, born June 14, 1895, married Esther Riesen, January 3, 1917, and they have one child, Chester De Lloyd, born August 13, 1917; Nora, born June 26, 1900; Heber L., born December 25, 1903; Charles D., born January 26, 1905; William D., born August 4, 1907; Vilas W., born January 8, 1910; and Marion T., born March 18, 1914. Independent in politics, Mr. Feasel votes for the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions. Fraternally he is a member of the Willshire, Ohio, Lodge No. 542, Knights of Pythias.

George E. Kinzle is the present county treasurer of Adams County, having been elected to that office in the fall of 1915 and beginning his official duties in January, 1916. Mr. Kinzle is a trained financier and business man and the office was never in better administrative hands than at present. He is giving the best of his time and energies to this public responsibility and in the person of Miss Goldie Gay he has a very competent deputy to handle the details of the office.

Mr. Kinzle was for twenty years superintendent of the Citizens Telephone Company of Decatur, having joined that organization about eighteen months after it was started. The local telephone industry looks upon Mr. Kinzle as the source of its chief prosperity. He is still actively identified with the telephone company and has carried the business through times of adversity as well as prosperity. About twelve years ago he became a stockholder of the company at the time of its reorganization, and is still a member of the board of directors. The other directors are E. X. Ehinger, F. M. Schmerzer, Leo Yager and John W. Tyndall.

Mr. Kinzle was superintendent of construction when the Power and Light Company's plant was built in Decatur and had much to do with the management of that public utility for eighteen months. He acquired

a thorough technical and business knowledge of the telephone business by four years of employment with the Bell Telephone Company of Chicago.

Mr. Kinzle was born at Convoy in Van Wert County, Ohio, March 19, 1870. He grew up in that locality, was educated in the public schools of Convoy and spent his early life on a farm. At the age of twenty he went to Chicago and took employment with the Bell Telephone Company, and from there came to Decatur.

Mr. Kinzle is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Beamer) Kinzle. His father was born in Germany, and at the age of thirteen accompanied his parents to America. Grandfather George Kinzle and wife first located on a farm near Bucyrus in Crawford County, Ohio, where George died, and later the family moved to Van Wert County. Jacob Kinzle married in Van Wert County Miss Beamer, who was a native of the county and a daughter of Pennsylvania parents, George and Hannah (Dahuff) Beamer. Mr. and Mrs. Beamer were married in Pennsylvania and then settled in Tully Township of Van Wert County, where they cleared up land from the wilderness and made a fine farm on which they spent their last years. They were active members of the English Lutheran Church, while the Kinzles were German Lutherans. Jacob Kinzle after his marriage lived in Harrison Township of Van Wert County and in 1872 while driving a pair of high strung horses which became frightened at something along the road and ran off, was so seriously injured that he died three days later when about thirty-six years of age. He was survived by four children: Rosa, wife of James M. Downing, a retired farmer of Van Wert, and she is the mother of two sons and a daughter; Flora D. is the wife of John Sowers of Tully Township, Van Wert County, and they have four sons and two daughters; the third in age is George E.; Louis at the age of twenty-one was accidentally killed while riding a freight train at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

George E. Kinzle married at Decatur in 1897 Flora B. Beatty. She was born in Ohio, but was reared and educated in Decatur, Indiana. Her father, A. P. Beatty, was for many years one of the leading citizens of Adams County. In early life he taught school, later became a merchant, served as mayor of Decatur one term, and in 1913 was elected a member of the State Legislature. He died July 20th of the same year after his election. He was a prominent Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and also a member of the lodge and chapter at Decatur and the Mystic Shrine at Fort Wayne. Politically he was a democrat. Mrs. Kinzle's mother, whose maiden name was Margaret J. Brown, was born in Allen County, Indiana, and is now living at the home of Mrs. Kinzle in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Kinzle have six children. The oldest, Helen, graduated from the Decatur High School in 1916, also from the International Business College at Fort Wayne, and is now a stenographer for the Sugar Beet Company of Decatur. Gertrude A., the second child, graduated from the high school in 1917 and is now preparing for her chosen work as teacher in Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana. The next two children, Margaret J. and Fred B., are students in the eighth grade. The two youngest, twins, now seven years old, are George Jacob and Lloyd Amos.

All the family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Kinzle is past master and past deputy grand sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men, and represented the State Lodge. He is also past dictator and was recently a delegate to the Moose convention at Pittsburgh in July, 1917. Mr. Kinzle is also prominently identified with Masonry and is one of the oldest Scottish Rite Masons in Decatur, having completed his work in the Consistory at Fort Wayne in 1900.

Ola L. Gaunt is member of a prominent family of that name long identified with Adams County, and all the years of his own active and

industrious life have been spent on the farm where he was born in St. Mary's Township six miles southeast of Decatur on Rural Route No. 8.

Mr. Gaunt was born on this farm December 8, 1879, son of Lafayette and Polly (Swygart) Gaunt. His father was a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and his mother of Van Wert County, Ohio. Each family came to Adams County in the early days and Lafayette and wife were married here and at once located on the farm where their only son and child now lives and where the parents spent their last years. Lafayette Gaunt was a republican in politics.

Ola L. Gaunt grew up in this locality, had a public school education, and has found abundance of opportunity for good honest work and to provide for himself and family on the old homestead. He owns 100 acres of good land, and has had much success in the breeding of Poland China hogs.

Mr. Gaunt married Clara Worden. They have three sons: Roy D., born December 12, 1896; Arthur K., born in April, 1899, and educated in the local schools; and Zelno W., born July 8, 1905. The son Roy was educated in the public schools and in the Fort Wayne Biblical College, and for the past three years has been a preacher of the Evangelical Association. He was regularly ordained a minister of that faith in April, 1918. The mother of these sons died in 1906, and Mr. Gaunt married for his second wife Goldie P. Breiner. They have two young children: Rolland R. and Mary H. Mr. Gaunt is affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose at Decatur and in politics is a republican.

Andrew J. Case is one of the intelligent and progressive farmers of St. Mary's Township, his place being a mile and a half southeast of Pleasant Mills. Success has come to him as a reward of long continued and well directed effort. He did not begin life with a fortune and was content with his inheritance of honesty and the qualities of thrift and industry which after all are more to be desired than money.

Mr. Case was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, April 3, 1862, a son of Washington and Catherine (Tupinger) Case. His parents were natives of the same county and spent their lives there. They had six children, four living at the present time: John L., of Van Wert County; Warren J., of Van Wert County; Ida M., wife of S. H. Teeple, of Geneva, Indiana; and Andrew J. The father married for his second wife Vitha Winings.

Andrew J. Case spent the first fourteen years of his life in his native county and since then has lived in Adams County and practically in the same locality. In 1884 he married Miss Mary E. Watkins, daughter of Jesse Watkins. After his marriage Mr. Case settled on the farm where he now lives and for over thirty years has quietly and unassumingly performed his tasks and responsibilities, has provided well for his growing family, and has one of the valuable farms of that community, comprising 103 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Case have the following children: Jesse, who married Alta Hawk, and lives a mile west of Pleasant Mills; Rufus, who married Mary Matthewson and lives at Middleton, Michigan; Marion, who graduated from the high school at Wiltshire, Ohio, is now a soldier in the National Army stationed at Camp Taylor; Roy and Mary E., both at home.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant Mills. Mr. Case has been a member of that church since he was fourteen years old and is one of its trustees. Politically he is a democrat and has done much to build up and keep up the party organization in his county. He has served as a member of the County Central Committee and is now candidate for county recorder.

Edward L. Foreman, of Blue Creek Township, Adams County, is one of that great body of industrious and thinking producers who earn every cent they get by adding honestly to the wealth of the world. He represents an honored name in Adams County and the land which he has individually cultivated for so many years was originally part of his father's large estate, an estate built up during sixty years of family residence in this county.

Edward L. Foreman was born on the old homestead in Blue Creek Township, January 1, 1870, son of Joseph and Rebecca (Crandall) Foreman. His grandfather Henry Foreman was a native of Germany and was an early settler in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where Joseph Foreman was born in 1817. About 1821 Henry Foreman took his family to Butler County, Ohio, and was one of the pioneers in that wilderness section of country. Joseph Foreman grew to manhood in Butler County, had only a common school education, and about 1849 came to Indiana. He was a man of few resources at the time and for a number of years depended on his bare hands as the best means to assist him to independence. In 1857 he came to Adams County, Indiana, and bought a tract of land almost completely covered by heavy timber. He did the pioneer work of clearing it up, and at the time of his death, which occurred in 1884, he owned an estate of 700 acres. He was rated as one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers in that part of Adams County. Politically he was a democrat. In 1850 he married Miss Rebecca Crandall, a native of Ohio but reared from girlhood in Indiana. Of their eleven children seven are still living: Elsie, wife of Isaac Emery; Amos, who is in the butcher business at Puyallup, Washington; Robert, of Grant County, Indiana; James, of Blue Creek Township; Frank, a barber at Berne; Edward L., and W. W. Foreman, a railroad man.

Edward L. Foreman grew up on the home farm in Blue Creek Township, had a district school education, and at the age of sixteen started out to make a living for himself. He followed various occupations, but after his marriage acquired part of the old homestead and has since given it his most methodical and careful attention, with results known to all residents in that community.

March 26, 1891, Edward L. Foreman married Miss Virgie C. Irwin. Mrs. Foreman was born in Licking County, Ohio. They have four living children: Claude M., who was cashier of the Western Oil and Refining Company and now in the United States Army at Camp Taylor; Charles E., a graduate of the Indianapolis Business College and now connected with the insurance department of the Knights of Pythias; Mamie, at home; and Minnie, wife of Frank Myers. Mrs. Foreman is a member of the Evangelical Church. In politics Mr. Foreman is a democrat.

John Eicher. Whether as a wage worker during his early life, as a farmer who has ordered his resources with that system which makes a profitable business, or as a citizen serving his locality as trustee of Monroe Township, John Eicher has won a high place of esteem in Adams County, and his reputation is based upon solid and enduring qualities.

Good character and sound mind and body he perhaps inherited from his ancestors, but otherwise his life has been one of self achievement. He was born in Wabash Township of Adams County June 9, 1869, a son of Christ and Elizabeth (Goldsmith) Eicher. His father was a native of Indiana and his mother of Ohio. John Eicher was only five years of age when his parents died. They were at that time just attaining a position in the world where they could survey their efforts with

satisfaction, and they looked forward to an honorable competence. The parents had made their early efforts on the home farm of John and Barbara Eicher, grandparents of John Eicher. Christ Eicher had just completed the building of a good house of his own on the old farm, but his death terminated plans which doubtless would have brought every comfort into the lives of his children. The living children of Christ Eicher and wife are Lydia, John, Martha and Christ.

John Eicher grew up an orphan boy, had the advantages of the graded schools in Wabash Township, and on leaving school he found his first employment in the Gottschalk & Ashbacher tile factory. He was there two years and then invested his modest capital in a threshing and sawmill outfit. He moved this around over the country and kept up a lively business for a couple of years. The money thus earned and saved he invested in his farm at the time of his marriage. The Eicher farm in Monroe Township comprises seventy-two and a half acres, all well cultivated and fine soil, and the group of substantial and well placed buildings are a credit to the owner and the entire district.

Mr. Eicher is a man of strong personality and despite his early lack of advantages is well posted and informed. He is a thoroughly progressive farmer and his success with his own affairs has added to his popularity as a citizen and created the confidence which led to his election as trustee of Monroe Township, an office he has filled for three years. These three years have been notable for the excellent management of the schools and the other interests entrusted to his official charge. Mr. Eicher is a democrat.

On December 6, 1896, he married Lena Gilliom, daughter of Peter and Rachel Gilliom, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. The Gilliom family are of Swiss ancestry, Mrs. Eicher's grandparents having been born in Switzerland. Her parents owned a good farm of seventy-six acres in Wabash Township, where Mrs. Eicher grew up and received her education in the common schools. Mrs. Eicher's brothers and sisters are Bertha, Sarah, Edwin, Alvin, Arthur, Martha, Emma, Noah, Hulda and Elmer.

A family of bright and interesting children now have their home with Mr. and Mrs. Eicher. Their names in order of birth are: Elma, aged twenty; Menno, aged sixteen; Palmer, aged thirteen; Lawrence, aged ten; and Ruth Elizabeth, the baby, who was born in 1917. The older children have been given the best existing advantages in the local public schools and also the high school. The family are members of the Mennonite Church.

Jacob Graber. Farming could hardly bespeak the energies and talents of a more capable man than Jacob Graber, who is doing his full part in keeping up Adams County's agricultural productivity and at the same time is discharging all those responsibilities and duties that devolve upon a man fully awake to his position in the world and in his attitude toward his fellowmen and his God.

Mr. Graber is a native of Allen County, Indiana, born in Milan Township October 22, 1876, son of Peter and Katie (Delarange) Graber. His father died March 13, 1879, and his mother is living on a farm of eighty acres in Michigan.

Jacob Graber was educated in the parochial schools of Allen County, and on March 15, 1896, took upon himself the responsibilities of a family by his marriage to Miss Lizzie Mazelin. Mrs. Graber is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Schwartz) Mazelin. Her father died April 10, 1909, and her mother February 5, 1873. Her mother was a daughter of John and Theresa Schwartz. Mrs. Graber's father, James Mazelin,

was twice married. By his marriage to Elizabeth Schwartz his children were Rosa, Anna, Mrs. Jacob Graber, and Theresa, the latter deceased. By his second marriage, to Barbara Miller, Mr. Mazelin had children named Fannie, Mary, Emma, Lydia and David.

On March 27, 1901, Mr. Jacob Graber located on his present farm in Monroe Township, purchasing it from his father-in-law, James Mazelin. He has eighty acres, all well cultivated, good soil and improved with excellent buildings fitted for all his purposes. Mr. and Mrs. Graber and all their family have been members of the Amish Christian Church and have brought up their children in the same faith. Their five children are: Jacob J., born February 11, 1897; Amos, born June 27, 1899; David, born August 27, 1901; Noah, born October 11, 1903; and Eli, born August 4, 1905.

Peter Rich. One of the substantial men of the farming industry in Monroe Township of Adams County is Peter Rich, whose industry has resulted in the making of a good farm and who in his own career has carried out the traditions and characteristics of thrift and industry so long associated with the hardy Swiss people who have constituted one of the most valuable elements of citizenship in this county.

Mr. Rich was born in French Township of Adams County November 8, 1860, a son of Joseph and Annie (Moser) Rich. Both parents were natives of Basle, Switzerland, the father being brought to this country when four years of age, at which time his parents joined the Swiss colony in Adams County. When about twenty-one Joseph Rich married and went to work to develop 160 acres of land. It is said that his industry and ambition led him to work almost night and day until he had accomplished his object of clearing his farm and endowing it with the improvements which he desired. His first home was a log cabin, and within those humble quarters six children were born and three others came to the light of day in a more substantial structure which replaced the old home. These children were named Peter, Barbara, Joseph J., Chris T., Nicholas, John, Annie, Mary and David.

Peter Rich married, March 19, 1887, Catherine Roth. Her parents were also natives of Switzerland and her father came to this country when about twenty-one and her mother at the age of six years. The Roth family acquired 240 acres in French Township and were active members of the Mennonite Church in that locality. Mrs. Rich grew up and was educated in French Township, where her father died in February, 1880, and her mother in April, 1883. Mrs. Rich's brothers and sisters were Lydia, Peter, John, Rosa and Jacob, and two who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Rich have three children: Joseph C., Eli and Edward. Joseph married Vera W. Andrews and has one child, Janette Alice. Eli married Ollie Andrews and also has one child, Paul Revere. Mr. and Mrs. Rich and family are members of the Mennonite Church and in politics he is a democrat.

Mrs. Anna Rupert, who with her children and some of her grandchildren, occupies a large and well improved farm in Monroe Township of Adams County, is the widow of the late Rev. Louis L. Rupert, who along with successful enterprise as a farmer was for a few years identified with the United Brethren Church as a minister. It is an honored name and an honored family in Adams County.

Mrs. Anna Rupert, whose maiden name was Trippy, was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, March 13, 1862, a daughter of Levi and Matilda (Fisher) Trippy, representing an old family of Van Wert County.

Mrs. Rupert was one of eight children, her brothers and sisters being Henry N., Mary, Thomas, Susan, Jennie, William and Nora.

Mrs. Rupert was well educated both in local schools and at home and was well prepared for the responsibilities she assumed when on December 30, 1880, she married Louis L. Rupert. Mr. Rupert was born in Allen County, Ohio, February 17, 1861, a son of Louis and Sarah (Wagner) Rupert.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert came to Adams County on March 20, 1894. At that time they possessed a modest capital and their children were all very young. They bought sixty acres of land in Monroe Township and straightway began making improvements and by dint of hard work and perseverance were able to accumulate more land and gradually provide for all the principal necessities of their growing family and accumulate something of a surplus against old age. Their first purchase put twenty acres more to their farm, later there was a second purchase of twenty acres, and finally the farm was rounded out by another thirty-five acres and forty acres, so that the Rupert homestead now occupied by Mrs. Anna Rupert consists of 180 acres of well tilled soil and improved with excellent buildings, constituting one of the model farms of the township.

All of this, together with his devoted labors as a minister of the United Brethren Church, stand as testimony to the good life and work of Rev. Mr. Rupert, who died December 28, 1910. He was laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery at Decatur.

Mrs. Rupert has six living children. Margie F., the oldest, married Frank Armstrong, and their two children are Louis S. and Sylvia R., the former thirteen and the latter eleven years of age. William T., the second child, married Verna Raudenbush, and their children are Floyd L., born May 22, 1911; Glenn A., born July 27, 1913, and Ruby T., born March 23, 1916. Jesse F., the third of the living children, married Ada Robinson and has one daughter, Mabel M., born November 17, 1914. The three unmarried children of Mrs. Rupert are Mary I., Harvey E. and Sylvan. These children were all given the advantages of the local schools, and all the family are members of the United Brethren Church except the daughter Mary, who is a member of the Friends Church. Three children are deceased, Sarah A., who married Charles Helmer; Francis A., who died in infancy; and Cynthia M., who married Henry Sanders, and was killed in an automobile accident at a railroad crossing.

Fred Mutschler. Among the active and prosperous business men of Adams County, not one is more worthy of special mention in this volume than Frederick Mutschler, an extensive stock buyer and seller, and proprietor of a well-kept and well-patronized meat market. A native of Germany, he was born in Heidelberg, September 27, 1864.

His father, Frederick Mutschler, Sr., spent his entire life in Germany, dying on his farm at a comparatively early age, in 1881. His widow remained in Germany until 1886, when she came to the United States to join her children, who had preceded her, and after spending a year at the home of her son, Frederick, who was then living in Adams County, Indiana, on a farm, located in Decatur, where her death occurred about twenty years later. She reared four children, as follows: Philip, now living in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Peter, a resident of Chicago, Illinois, married; Sophia, wife of Peter Kirsch, a well-known lumberman of Decatur, Indiana; and Frederick.

Brought up on a farm, Frederick Mutschler was well trained in agricultural pursuits in his native land. Coming to America in 1881,

he sailed from Rotterdam, and landed at Castle Garden, New York. He subsequently spent six months in Pennsylvania; from there coming to Western Indiana to join his brother, Philip, who had been in this country for sometime. He began work as a farmhand, and when ready to begin life on his own account began farming in Adams County. In 1902 Mr. Mutschler moved from his farm to Decatur, and engaged in the livery business one year; he then engaged in the meat market and stock business continuing until the present time, also buying and selling cattle, and in the managing of his finely equipped market on North Monroe Street. His store is one of the best of the kind in the county, being up-to-date in every respect, and well kept as regards its sanitary conditions.

Mr. Mutschler married, in Adams County, Catherine Kirsch, who was born in Baden, Germany, and as a child came with her parents to Indiana. Five children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mutschler, namely: Emma, who married Edward Worthman, died at the birth of her first child, who also died at the same time; Ella, who was graduated from the Valparaiso Normal School, is a successful teacher; Albert, an expert butcher, is superintendent of his father's shop; Huldah, wife of Benjamin Shroyer, of Decatur, an engineer in the sugar beet plant, and they have one son, Frederick; and Edgar, a well educated young man of twenty years, is in his father's employ. Mr. and Mrs. Mutschler are members of the Reformed Church, and the father and sons are democrats in politics.

Ernest W. Busche. By close application, untiring energy, and a diligent use of his faculties, Ernest W. Busche, of Washington Township, who began life for himself on a low rung of the ladder of attainments, has steadily forged his way upward, and now occupies a position of note among the extensive and prosperous farmers of Adams County. A native of Germany, he was born, May 16, 1873, in Helpson, near Hanover, where his parents, Henry and Sophia (Nieman) spent their entire lives.

At the age of fifteen years, Ernest W. Busche came from Germany to the United States, and during the next seven years lived with an uncle in Tipton County, Indiana, where for a time he attended the public schools, continuing the studies that he had previously begun in his native land. With an inclination for reading, and a great desire for learning, he has since added materially to his elementary education, and keeps well informed on the questions of the day. Starting in life on his own account in March, 1895, Mr. Busche purchased a few acres of land and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Disposing of that land, he bought forty acres in Tipton County, Indiana, and in 1901 purchased 106 acres more in that locality. Selling out that property a year later, Mr. Busche came to Adams County, Indiana, in February, 1902, and bought 160 acres of good land lying a half mile east of Monroe. In 1910 he bought forty acres of near-by land, and now has a well-managed and well-appointed farm of 200 acres, on which he is carrying on general farming in a highly satisfactory manner, finding both pleasure and profit in his labors.

Mr. Busche married, March 28, 1895, Nettie A. Smitson, who was born and educated in Tipton County, Indiana. Her parents, Henry and Mary Smitson, reared two children, Nettie A. and Andrew, who married Ella Schinlaub. Mr. Smitson is still living, but his wife died many years ago, her death occurring September 16, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Busche have two children, namely: L. Martin, born November 23, 1897, is attending Purdue University, in Lafayette, Indiana; and

GARRET C. BERLING

Louise, born March 24, 1901, is a high school pupil. Mr. and Mrs. Busche are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Busche has always been identified with the republican party. Fraternally he is a member of Decatur Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; and of Monroe Lodge No. 6840, Modern Woodmen of America.

Ulrich Sprunger. Prominent among the enterprising and self-reliant men who are ably conducting the agricultural affairs of Adams County is Ulrich Sprunger, of Monroe Township, a farmer of practical experience and much ability. A worthy representative of the native-born citizens of Adams County, he was born in Monroe Township, January 7, 1860, of honored Swiss ancestry.

His father, Christian Sprunger, was born in Berne, Switzerland, and in early life, about 1852, immigrated to Indiana. Locating in Adams County, he bought eighty acres of absolutely wild land in Monroe Township, and at once began the heroic task of placing it under cultivation. There he lived with his family for many years in true pioneer style, depending principally upon the productions of the soil and the game to be found for their subsistence, Fort Wayne being the nearest market and trading post. Not a furrow had been turned on the land he purchased, but the soil yielded readily to cultivation, and in the course of a few years he had improved the homestead property upon which he and his wife spent the remainder of their years. He married Mary Anna Lehmann, a native of Adams County, and in the log cabin to which he took her as a bride their ten children were born, namely: Katie; Mary; Elizabeth; Barbara; Anna, deceased; Rosa; Rachel; Joel; Gideon; and Ulrich.

After completing his education in the district schools, Ulrich Sprunger began working with his father, and under his training acquired knowledge and experience of value. In May, 1885, he purchased, in Monroe Township, sixty acres of his present estate, and has since increased its acreage by the purchase of fifty more acres. Here Mr. Sprunger has labored diligently and successfully, improving and beautifying his farm, which yields him rich returns each year. He has a good residence and comfortable and substantial farm buildings, everything about the place being indicative of thirft, peace and plenty.

On October 28, 1886, Mr. Sprunger married Anna Liechty, a daughter of Jacob and Marie Liechty, who came to Indiana from Switzerland, and settled in Wayne County, Ohio, where their eight children were born, their names being as follows: Samuel, deceased; Emanuel; Christian, deceased; Jacob; Peter; Elizabeth; Anna, now Mrs. Sprunger; and Joel, deceased. The father of these children died December 27, 1907, and the mother July 12, 1910. Nine children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sprunger, namely: Dora, born June 25, 1887; Walter, born January 1, 1888; Oscar, born October 2, 1890; Joel, born September 23, 1892; Eldon, born November 20, 1894; Powell, deceased, born May 31, 1897; Marcus, born February 19, 1899; Mary, born May 25, 1901; and Freda, born April 23, 1903. Walter, serving in the United States army, is now at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. Oscar, Joel and Eldon are also in the service. Mr. Sprunger is not identified with any political party, being independent in his views. Himself, wife and family are members of the Mennonite Church.

Garret C. Berling. For a period of nearly thirty years Garret C. Berling was one of Decatur's most influential business men. When a young man with little capital he started out over the county buying

produce in a single wagon and at the time of his death was head of the Berling Produce Company, handling goods in wholesale lots, and affording a market which was patronized by producers all over Adams County while there were several branch establishments in other towns.

Mr. Berling was known in Hanover, Germany, November 27, 1854. He was of old German stock and of Catholic family. His parents, John and Catherine (Fullenkamp) Berling, spent all their lives in Hanover, where his father, a blacksmith by trade, died at the age of about fifty. The mother passed away when about seventy years of age. They had two sons, one of whom died in infancy, and one daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Steinberger, who is still living in Hanover and mother of a large family.

Garret C. Berling grew up in his native country and was well educated in the German schools. He came to America at the age of seventeen. One of the principal reasons why he sought a home in America was to avoid the compulsory military service. He left his home October 4, 1871, and took passage on the steamer Baltimore in the North Sea and after one day at Southampton, England, crossed the ocean, arriving at Baltimore, Maryland, October 22, 1871. It was a somewhat stormy passage. From Baltimore he proceeded over the Baltimore & Ohio Railway to Cincinnati and then crossed the Ohio River to visit relatives at Covington, Kentucky. In November of the same year he came to Adams County and joined an uncle, Mr. Fullenkamp. During 1873-74 he attended school across the line in Ohio, and then returned to Decatur and in 1875 set up a business for himself, driving a huckster wagon over the country, purchasing butter, eggs, poultry and other produce. He shipped most of his stock to market at New York and Philadelphia. He rapidly gained the confidence and acquaintance of all the growers of produce over a wide territory and in the course of time he was able to set up a business at Decatur to which the produce was brought to him by the raisers themselves. From time to time an increase in his facilities was required, and at the time of his death he had a large warehouse, 40 by 100 feet, and also a branch house at Berne, in Adams County.

Mr. Berling died at Decatur October 23, 1904. He was a very popular merchant, an excellent citizen and noted for his sterling character and the quiet efficiency he exercised in every undertaking, whether it was something that concerned himself or the community at large. Many years ago he bought a fine ten-room residence at the corner of Jefferson and Fourth streets, and Mrs. Berling and some of her children are still living there. Mr. Berling was known as a very ardent democrat and took much interest in politics and all progressive matters. He was prominent in the Catholic Church.

At Decatur in 1880 he married Miss Helena Hartman. She was born in Eastern Pennsylvania July 17, 1858, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Herman) Hartman. Her father was born in Pennsylvania a short time after his parents came to this country from Germany. The Hartmans were nineteen weeks in crossing the ocean on an old fashioned sailing vessel, and the grandparents spent the rest of their lives in Pennsylvania. Joseph Hartman was married in eastern Pennsylvania and his wife died when Mrs. Berling was nine years of age. He lived to be past sixty and died in 1883. He was a boatman by occupation and was a member of the Catholic Church while his wife was a Lutheran. Mrs. Berling grew up in Pennsylvania and in 1873 came to Decatur to join a family of relatives namer Bermenkamp. She lived with them seven years until she married. Mrs. Berling is an active member with her family of St. Mary's Catholic Church. She has been a devoted mother and may be justly proud of the records of her children. Her oldest child, Joseph,

is unmarried and lives with his mother and is active manager of the Berling Produce Company. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and other local organizations. The second child, Mary, is at home and is bookkeeper for the company. Edward, also at home and single, is buyer for the company, and a member of the Knights of Columbus. The son William conducts the company's branch plant at Bluffton, where he resides. He married Edna Echinger and has a son, William, Jr. Matilda is at home and works as assistant bookkeeper for the company. Geneve is bookkeeper for the Adams County Creamery Company. Agnes took the veil as a Catholic sister in 1907 and is now known as Sister Mary Coletta of the Order of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and for the past four years has been a teacher at Yonkers, New York. All the children graduated from the parochial schools at Decatur. The boys took courses in the Business College at Fort Wayne and the daughters are graduates of the Sacred Heart Convent of Fort Wayne.

Jacob W. Johnston was born and has lived all his life on one farm in Adams County. He is one of the men who are in a position by experience to appreciate the assertion that "home keeping hearts are happiest," and it is a tribute to his steadfastness of character that he has been content to live in and witness the successive changes of one locality for over fifty years.

This farm where he was born and where he now lives is near Washington Church in section 18 of Washington Township, five miles southwest of Decatur. He was born there October 23, 1853, son of Thomas and Eliza (Ball) Johnston. His father, who was a native of Maryland, went with his parents to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and where he married his first wife. Impelled by the desire for new land in a less densely populated section he came to Adams County in pioneer days and here entered a quarter section from the Government in section 18, Washington Township. Thomas Johnston did much of the heavy work of clearing and improving on that land, and its first crops were grown from his planting. His first wife died there and all their four children are now deceased. He married for his second wife Eliza Ball, daughter of James Ball. Thirteen children were born to the second marriage, and those still living are: Rebecca, widow of Charles F. Chaney of Plymouth, Indiana; Martha J., wife of George Christ of Richland Township; Abner S. of Kansas City; Barton B. of Linn County, Kansas; Rachel A., wife of Abe Stoneburner of Decatur; Miss Mary L. of Decatur.

Jacob W. Johnston as a boy attended district school near the old homestead, and at the same time developed his strength by the duties of the farm. Some years after reaching manhood on April 27, 1888, he married Miss Sarah E. Burkhead. She was born in Illinois but was reared and educated in the schools of Adams County, Indiana. Seven children have been born to their marriage: Mary A., wife of Dallas Grim; John F. of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Ada L., wife of William Martin; Eliza, wife of Edward Arnold; Thomas V., of Decatur; Elmer D., unmarried and at home; and Anna P., wife of Roy Jahn, who is now in the United States army at Camp Taylor.

The Johnston family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington Township and Mr. Johnston is one of the church trustees. He belongs to the Adams County Detective Association and in politics is a democrat. His farm consists of 100 acres that has produced probably fifty or sixty crops and is still fertile, productive, under a high

state of cultivation and one of the best farms and finest homesteads in the county.

GEORGE A. KINTZ. Few of the farmers of Washington Township in Adams County have made a better showing from a similar beginning than George A. Kintz. He has gained prominence in the agricultural sections of the county as a farmer and stock raiser, and worthily takes his place among the representative citizens of the county.

Mr. Kintz has been a resident of Adams County forty years and has lived on his present farm for the past sixteen years. His farm consists of eighty acres of the fine soil of Washington Township and under his management his fields have grown the best crops year in and year out. Among improvements should be mentioned a substantial six-room house, practically new, a barn 36x60 feet recently completed, with additional shelter for horses and cattle. As a crop grower Mr. Kintz has in many seasons succeeded in producing fifty bushels of corn to the acre, twenty bushels of wheat and forty bushels of oats.

He came to Indiana from Ohio. He was born in Seneca County of that state in 1856, son of Lewis and Elizabeth (Kuhn) Kintz. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania and after their marriage in that state they moved to Seneca County, Ohio. The father was a cooper by trade, but after moving to Ohio followed farming. He was a man of much industry, a good provider, and lived a long and useful life, passing away at the age of seventy-five, his wife died at the age of eighty-nine. Both were lifelong members of the Catholic Church. Their family consisted of six sons and four daughters, all but one growing up. Among these children were: Henry M.; Louise; Ann, who died after her marriage; Agnes, who is married; Andy, deceased; Edward, who lives west of Decatur; George A.; Josie, who is married and has a family in Root Township; and Lewis, who died in infancy.

George A. Kintz grew up in his native state and was educated in parochial schools. At Tiffin, Seneca County, he married for his first wife Margaret Geary, who was born and reared and educated in Tiffin, of Catholic parents. She died in Washington Township eight years after her marriage at the age of thirty-five. Mr. Kintz had four children by his first wife. Angeline, the oldest, is the wife of Herbert Lackenaugh and they now live at Fort Wayne and have two children, Henry George and Marjorie Catherine. Maggie is the wife of Joseph Smith, a carpenter at Decatur, and their two children, Geraldean and Gerald, are both attending school. A twin sister of Maggie, Elizabeth, died in childhood. The youngest Lewis is unmarried and lives in Michigan. Mr. George Kintz married for his second wife at Tiffin, Ohio, Mary Herrick. She was born there thirty-six years ago, was well educated, and has proved a splendid wife and mother to her family. They have three children: Andrew, aged nineteen; Hubert, aged seventeen; and Bernard, in his fifteenth year. All the family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur. Mr. Kintz votes as a democrat, and has filled various offices such as school board member, supervisor of roads and township assessor.

HENRY EITING. Of the men who have made farming and the management of land and its resources their chief business in life, undoubtedly one of the successful in Adams County is Henry Eiting of Washington Township. Mr. Eiting is an old timer of this community, grew up here from early childhood, and his boyhood strength and enthusiasm were contributed to the sum total of labors by which his family suc-

ceeded in the heavy pioneer task of developing a portion of Adams County's original wilderness.

Mr. Henry Eiting's present fine home is a farm of 206 acres in sections 4 and 9 in Washington Township, close to the corporation limits of Decatur. He really has two complete farms, each with a set of farm buildings. Both homes contain eight rooms each. His own home is a well built stucco residence and the other is occupied by his son Benjamin. Besides the houses there is a large group of detached buildings, both small and large, used for the various purposes of shelter for stock, grain and implements. Practically all the land is under cultivation except fifteen acres of native timber. It is well drained and productive soil, and its resources are apparently better preserved now than ever before, though Mr. Eiting himself has farmed this tract continuously for over thirty years. As a crop producer he ordinarily gets 60 bushels of corn to the acre, about 25 bushels of wheat, and 50 bushels of oats. He has also grown sugar beets on a considerable scale. This farm has been the home of Mr. Eiting since 1881, and most of the clearing and original work of cultivation were done by him.

Mr. Eiting has been a resident of Washington Township of Adams County since 1855. He was born in Prussia, Germany, in April, 1850, and came to the United States with his mother and a brother. His father had preceded the family to the United States in 1854, first locating at Minster in Auglaize County, Ohio, where one of his brothers, John, had established a home six years before. Still another brother of the father, Wilhelm, came to the United States some years later. The Eiting family lived for many generations as substantial farming people in Germany and all of them were Catholics in religion. Mr. Henry Eiting is a son of Casper and Margaret (Schrer) Eiting, both of whom were born and grew up neighbors in Germany and were married there. After they came to the United States one other child was born, John. Casper Eiting and wife after establishing their home in Adams County rented land for a time, and later bought a tract of raw land in Washington Township. Here they experienced all the early conditions of pioneer life. On their homestead of 160 acres Henry Eiting, then a boy of ten years in 1860, cut down the first tree to make the clearing on which their one room log cabin was erected. Year after year of hard toil followed, and in the course of time the parents had nearly all the land cleared and in cultivation. The old log house was supplanted by a substantial brick house. The mother of Henry Eiting died in this home in 1872 in middle age. Casper Eiting afterwards married Mrs. Christina Schrader, and they continued to live on the old farm until their death. One child was born of the second marriage, Anthony, who died young. Casper Eiting died at the age of seventy-six, followed by his second wife two years later at the age of sixty. Both were active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur.

Henry Eiting grew up in Washington Township and acquired most of his education by study and observation rather than by any degree of regularity in attendance at the local schools. For a great many years he has been one of the active supporters of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Decatur. When the present handsome edifice was erected he helped haul the brick and stone used in its construction. Then in 1875 he and Catherine Meyer were the first couple to be married in the new church. Mrs. Eiting was born in Washington Township in the log house that stood on her father's farm on August 7, 1857. She grew up and was educated there. Her parents were Barney and Elizabeth (Kristcamp) Meyer. Her father was a native of Germany, came in young manhood to America, and met Miss Kristcamp in Washington Township of Adams

County, where she was born. After their marriage they cleared up a tract of raw land and made a good home, on which they spent the rest of their days. The mother of Mrs. Eiting died in 1863 at the age of twenty-five. Her father married a second time, but had no children by the second wife. By the first marriage were the following children: Barney; Mary, wife of George Mesbaum who lives in Fort Wayne and has two sons and one daughter; Mrs. Eiting; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Hoevel, a farmer in Allen County, and of their five sons and five daughters all are living and four are married; Christina, who is the mother of two sons and two daughters by her marriage to William Hoevel, who was accidentally killed on the Pennsylvania Railway near his home while driving across the track with a team and wagon.

Mr. and Mrs. Eiting are the parents of six children. The oldest, Christina, died when eleven years of age. The second died unnamed. Frances, now deceased, married Edward Gase, a restaurant proprietor at Decatur, and her death occurred April 10, 1911, when twenty-nine years of age at the birth of her first child, Frances M. Benjamin C. Eiting was born March 14, 1879, was educated in the parochial schools and now occupies and manages part of his father's farm and is one of the thrifty and intelligent agriculturists of Adams County. He married Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Andrew Miller of Washington Township. Their children are named Bernard, Catherine, Margaret, Robert and Mary G., three of whom are already of school age and attending school. The two younger children of Mr. and Mrs. Eiting are Clara E. and Mary C., both of whom have been educated in the parochial schools and are still at home. All the children were confirmed in St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur and all are working members of the church. Mr. Eiting is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. He was city councilman for two years and is now member of the county council. He was precinct committeeman for eighteen years. He is a democrat.

Peter Braun. A stimulating example of farm enterprise in Adams County is that furnished by Peter Braun, whose well improved acres are situated in Washington Township. Mr. Braun has the sturdy energy and the thrift of the old German stock, and has made his farming pay better profits than many men similarly circumstanced. The buildings on his land show the type of farmer which he is. For the care of his grain and livestock he has one of the largest barns in Washington Township, 60 by 50 feet. This barn was erected in 1901. Near it are a number of other buildings, including corn cribs, granaries, wagon and tool sheds. Mr. Braun handles the better grades of live stock and gets his chief revenue from his stock sales. He and his family reside in a comfortable and roomy house of nine rooms, and it has been their home for twenty years, practically all the children having grown up under one roof.

Mr. Braun was born in Germany August 15, 1865, but has lived in America since he was six years of age. His parents, John and Margaret (Mang) Braun, were of a Catholic German family. In 1871 their six children, George, Mary, John, Peter, John second of the name, and Margaret with the parents took passage on a boat which brought them over the ocean to the United States, and the family soon located on a farm close to the city of Canton in Stark County, Ohio. In 1881 they moved to Adams County, Indiana, buying a farm in Washington Township. This old homestead was the home of John Braun and wife the rest of their years, and they died within six months of each other in 1910, both being more than seventy years of age. They were lifelong members of the Catholic Church. John Braun was a democrat. All their children are still living, all married and have families of their own.

The fourth in age, Peter Braun, grew up in Ohio and in Indiana, attended public schools near Canton, and as a boy of sixteen when the family came to Adams County was ready to assume many labors and responsibilities in connection with the improvement of his father's place. He continued to live at home with his father until he was twenty-nine.

On May 7, 1894, in Washington Township he married Miss Rosa Lichtle. She was born in Seneca County, Ohio, August 6, 1871, and in 1882 came with her parents to a farm in Washington Township. She is a daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Brickner) Lichtle, both natives of Ohio and of German ancestry. Her parents were married in Seneca County, and some of their children were born there and some in Adams County. Mrs. Braun's father died in 1902 at the age of fifty-five. Her widowed mother, now past seventy, makes her home with her children. The Lichtle family also were Catholics. Two of their children are now deceased and the rest are all married.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Braun are ten in number, the oldest being twenty-one years of age. They all still constitute an unbroken circle at home, and their names in order of birth are: Nicholas, Martin, Mamie, Bernard, Daniel, Agnes, Herbert, Albert, Herman and Florence. The four younger children are still in school. All are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Braun is a democrat, but has found his life a busy one in looking after his farm and providing for his growing family of children and has seldom participated in practical politics.

JOSEPH RUMSCHLAG. Adams County is essentially an agricultural community and is noted no less for the excellence of its farms than for the public spirit and enterprise of the agriculturists who till them. One of these successful farmers, a resident of the county for over thirty years and a man who started as a renter, is Joseph Rumschlag, owner of one of the best improved places in Washington Township.

Mr. Rumschlag has not been unacquainted with poverty and hardship during portions of his career, but has steadily worked ahead with a good goal in view and has not only gained prosperity for himself but has provided a home and comforts for a splendid family of young people, some of whom are still around him.

He was born near Tiffin in Seneca County, Ohio, November 19, 1856, son of Barnard and Margaret (Osterheld) Rumschlag. His father was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, in 1825, and when a small child was left an orphan. At the age of nine he accompanied a cousin across the waters of the Atlantic to Seneca County, Ohio. There he grew up, was trained to a life of industry and good principles and in that county he married Miss Osterheld. She too was a native of Germany, born in Bavaria in 1833. At the age of two and a half years she came with her parents to Seneca County, Ohio. Her father and mother, Henry and Christine Osterheld, cleared up a home in the wilderness of Seneca County and lived there until their death when in middle years. They were hard working people, and all devout members of the Catholic Church.

Barnard Rumschlag after his marriage bought the farm of his wife's father, and he lived there until his death in 1897. Amid the scenes of her childhood and mature womanhood where her children were born and reared, Mrs. Barnard Rumschlag is still living and celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday in the spring of 1917. She has been a life-long member of the Catholic Church. Her husband was a democrat. They had a large family of children, comprising seven sons and five daughters, and all but one of them grew up, ten of them married. Those now living are Joseph, Nichol, George, Jacob, Barnard, Jr., Andy, Rosie, Katie, all married except Katie.

Joseph Rumschlag called no other place his home except his father's farm in Seneca County until he was twenty-four years of age. He had grown up there in a country community and had attended the local schools. On October 26, 1880, at Tiffin, Ohio, he married Miss Rosie T. Bucher. She was born in Huron County, Ohio, January 3, 1861, and had a parochial school education. Her parents, Jellis and Sophia (Kramer) Bucher, were natives of Baden, Germany, and of Catholic ancestry. They were brought to the United States when children by their respective families, and the older people spent the rest of their years in Ohio. Mrs. Rumschlag's parents were married at Peru in Huron County, and the Catholic priest who performed the ceremony, Father Eberhart, by a rather unusual coincidence had also married her parents. Mr. Bucher is still living and was ninety-one years of age on October 21, 1917, and still retains possession of most of his faculties. His wife died ten years ago.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rumschlag continued to live on a farm in Seneca County until 1884, and then on October 9th they loaded some of their few possessions into a wagon, and with teams made the journey to Adams County, Indiana. They first located on a rented farm three miles south of Decatur on Mud Pike. They lived there as renters six years, worked hard and gradually accumulated a small surplus, which they then used to buy eighty acres of heavily timbered land in section 26 of Washington Township. Mr. Rumschlag had to go in debt for most of the purchase price, but he proved equal to the responsibilities thus assumed. With his own hands he cleared away the woods bit by bit, and in the course of time one field after another came into cultivation and responded to his efforts as a farmer. The land cost him $1,200 and in 1900 he sold it for $6,400. In the meantime he had made a good living and something more from the farm. His next purchase was 160 acres in section 11 of Washington Township, and that was his home until January, 1918, when he moved to Decatur and retired. All except a few acres of his farm are thoroughly well improved, and in 1916 he erected one of the fine barns of the country side, 36x68 feet, with ample facilities for stock and grain.

While Mr. Rumschlag has always been a very busy man and has had unusual family responsibilities, he has consented on different occasions to perform the duties of public office in his home township. He is a democrat, his family are all active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur and most of his sons are members of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. and Mrs. Rumschlag became the parents of fifteen children, two of them died in infancy. One of the older sons, Charles, died in Adams County, January 27, 1913. He married Clara Kertenbries and she and her son Robert now live in Decatur. Clara, the oldest of the living children, is the wife of Barney Wertzburger, a barber at Decatur, and their children consist of Charles, Raymond, Francis, Richard and Mary, the three oldest now attending parochial schools. Edward is a farmer in Washington Township and by his marriage to Agnes Omlor has two children, Hubert and Rosie Mary. Louis is also one of the sturdy agriculturists of Washington Township. He married Clara Heimann and their family consists of Naomi, Margaret and Alfred. Allie is the wife of August Langrich, a Washington Township farmer, and they have two sons and four daughters. Anna married John Heimann of Washington Township and is the mother of Ambrose and Lawrence. Rosie became the wife of Frank Losher, and they live on a farm in Washington Township and have two daughters, Helen and Dorothy. Agnes is the wife of Joseph Gales, living on a farm in Washington Township. Joseph

is unmarried and is a farmer on the home farm. The son, Albert, is now a soldier in the National army and is stationed with the Headquarters Troop of the Thirty-eighth Division of the army at Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The three younger children at home are named Matilda, Christina and Bernard.

Jacob Rawley is member of one of the oldest and best known families of Adams County. His own part of life has been that of a sturdy, independent and enterprising farmer and stockman. His home is in section 24 of Washington Township, where he has a place of eighty acres thoroughly cultivated, with substantial farm buildings, and many of the best improvements on his farm are the direct result of his own labor and ingenuity. Mr. Rawley is thoroughly progressive in his operations. A number of years ago he built one of the best barns in the township, 70 by 70 feet with basement, and with facilities and space for a large number of stock and many bushels of grain and other seeds. Mr. Rawley has more than a local reputation as a breeder of Belgian horses. He has handled that grade of stock for the past fifteen years and has owned some of the best stallions of the breed in Adams County. Two well known horses formerly owned by him were Brook and Smart. He is now owner of a registered thoroughbred stallion named Qeuenton, which weighs 2,200 pounds and would probably rank with any horse of its type and breed in this section of Indiana.

Mr. Rawley has lived on his farm in Washington Township since 1882. He was born in Wabash Township of Adams County October 23, 1847, and he grew up and received his education here. He was one of a large family of children born to Tilmon and Elizabeth (Harshbarger) Rawley. Tilmon Rawley was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, in October, 1812, and his father was a native of England. His mother was of German stock. In 1840 the Rawley family moved to Wabash Township of Adams County, but two years later returned to Clarke County, Ohio, where for several years Tilmon was engaged in merchandising. He finally returned to his farm in Wabash Township, and he lived there until his death when about sixty years of age. The Rawleys were members of the Dunkard Church, and the father of Tilmon Rawley having grown up in Virginia came to hate the institution of slavery and was a stanch abolitionist. As a party man he was first a whig and afterwards a republican. Tilmon Rawley married in Clarke County, Ohio, Elizabeth Harshbarger, a native of that state. She was of German parentage. To their marriage were born eight children, six sons and two daughters. Tilmon Rawley for a time after his marriage farmed rented land and also engaged in merchandising, he accumulating over 800 acres of land, which he divided among his children before his death. He died at the age of sixty-three and his wife at sixty-four. Tilmon Rawley made his success in a very humble start. He had practically nothing when he went to Clarke County, Ohio, but in course of time developed a large farm and was a man of many resources. He and his wife were good Christian people, having been born in the Dunkard faith. Tilmon Rawley was a republican in politics.

In 1870 Mr. Jacob Rawley married Miss Rhoda Coverdale, member of an old and substantial family of Adams County. She was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1853, and was three years of age when her parents Dr. Lemuel N. and Mary A. (Shaver) Coverdale moved to Allen County, Indiana. Her parents were also natives of Muskingum County, Ohio, and their eight daughters and three sons were all born in that section. Doctor Coverdale was widely known as a medical practitioner in Northeastern Indiana, and for a number of years practiced

at Monmouth in Adams County. He finally retired to the farm now occupied by Mr. Jacob Rawley, and he died there when past seventy-five years of age. One of his sons is Jonas S. Coverdale, a prominent physician at Decatur.

After his marriage Mr. Jacob Rawley lived on his father's farm in Wabash Township and subsequently secured a farm in Blue Creek Township. While there his good wife passed away in 1878 in the prime of life. She was the mother of two children. Nelson Tilmon, the older, was born in 1876 and died in 1898. Mary S., the only surviving child, was born in 1878 in Blue Creek Township and was educated in Washington Township. She is the wife of Mr. E. T. Jones, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, forty-seven years ago, was well educated and for a number of years was a successful teacher. He is now active manager of the Rawley farm in Washington Township. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have one daughter, Rhoda Matilda, born December 27, 1903, and now a student in the eighth grade of the public schools. All the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant Mills. Mr. Jacob Rawley is a republican.

Jacob Omlor. The substantial evidences of two generations of work by the Omlor family are found on the farm owned by Jacob Omlor in section 22 of Washington Township. This land when his father took it was little more than a swamp. The father made it available for cultivation by extensive clearing and surface drainage. Mr. Jacob Omlor has carried out the same program, though according to modern ideas and practices, and it is difficult to believe that his 120-acre farm, well tilled and cultivated, and productive of all the staple crops, was once not so many years ago practically worthless from the point of view of agriculture.

All the land is now growing crops except about seven acres, and in addition to the productiveness of the fields substantial farm buildings contribute a large item of value.

Jacob Omlor has lived on this one farm for fifty years. His home has been in Adams County since he was six months old. He was born in Seneca County, Ohio, January 1, 1861, and later in the same year his parents came to Adams County, Indiana. He is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Shone) Omlor. Both parents were born in Bavaria, Germany, were of the rural class, and gave allegiance to the prevailing religion in that country, Catholicism. Both the Shone and Omlor families came to the United States in the days of sailing vessels, and both families settled in Seneca County, Ohio, where they remained until 1861, when the families, including grandparents and children, moved to Adams County and bought the old Jacob Yager farm in St. Mary's Township. A year or so later the grandparents Omlor and Shone moved to Decatur and all of them died in this county. Nicholas Omlor and wife after living in Decatur about four years moved to section 22 of Washington Township. There he acquired at a small price a tract of swampy land. He went to work clearing away the brush, opening up surface ditches to remove the water which had formerly stood on the land for the larger part of the year, and kept steadily at his task of improvement, replacing the old log buildings with more substantial ones, and he continued to provide a living for his family and a modest competence for himself until 1877, when he turned the land over to his son Jacob and moved to Decatur. The parents lived at Decatur from 1877 until they died. The mother passed away in 1896 at the age of fifty-five and the father in September, 1914, when a few months past his eighty-second birthday. Both were contributing members to the first Catholic

Church organized in Decatur and they helped erect the present fine church home of St. Mary's congregation. Jacob Omlor was one of a family of six children, three of whom are still living. He grew up on the home farm, assisted in its cultivation during the summer months, and was educated in the local schools. For forty years he has lived on the farm as its independent manager and owner, and has expended a vast amount of labor and not a little capital in carrying on the program of improvement. The old surface ditches have been changed to tile drainage, and it is now one of the best drained farms in the township, and that means that it is one of the best improved from every point of view.

In Washington Township Mr. Omlor married Mary Hains, daughter of Simeon and Gertrude (Miggenberg) Hains. Her father was born in Bavaria and her mother in Westphalia, Germany, and their respective families came to this country about 1860, being some sixty days in crossing the ocean by sailing vessel. One of the boats on which they came was tossed about by storm until all its sails were lost except one. From New York after several years of residence the family came on to Ohio and finally located in Adams County. Simeon Hains and wife were married in this county, and their respective parents died here. Simeon Hains before his marriage was a stage driver between Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Celina, Ohio, for several years. After his marriage he located in Washington Township, where he spent an active life as a farmer and died at the age of sixty-five. His first wife and the mother of Mrs. Omlor died at the age of thirty-seven, when in the prime of life. He afterwards married a second time and had one child by that union. By the first marriage there were seven children, six of whom are still living, and five of them are married and have children.

Mr. and Mrs. Omlor may well take pride among other accomplishments of the fine family that have grown up and are growing up in their home. Gertrude, the oldest, is the wife of Clem Colchin, a farmer in Washington Township, and they have two children, Frederick and Robert. Agnes is the wife of Edward Lumschlag, living on the Lumschlag farm. Their children are named Hubert and Rose M. Edward, the third child, is still unmarried, is about twenty-five years of age and assists his father in the management of the home farm. Lawrence, the next in age, is a soldier in the National Army and now stationed at Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The younger children, all at home, are Elnora, Margaret, Celista, Harmon, Hubert and Frances. Harmon aged fifteen, Hubert aged thirteen, and Frances aged ten are still attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Omlor have instilled in their children the best principles, and have carefully educated them both in the parochial and public schools. All the family are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Omlor is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has long been a figure in the democratic party of Adams County, and for the past twelve years has served the party on some local committee.

Martin Laughlin since February, 1911, has been superintendent of the County Infirmary of Adams County. Probably no office in the county requires greater care in the selection of its incumbent than the head of the infirmary, as the superintendent must be a practical farmer, a good business man, and capable of handling a group of perplexing problems and cares and anxieties such as come to no other public official.

Mr. Laughlin has shown himself to be the man for the place and has justified the expectations of all who looked upon his appointment with approval. He succeeded Mr. Jacob L. Graber as superintendent. The County Poor Farm or Infirmary has been in its present location in

Washington Township in section 13 since 1875, when the county bought about 200 acres of land a half mile southeast of Decatur. The present farm comprises 270 acres. All but ten acres is well improved and is kept in a high state of cultivation. The farm is practically self sustaining. It represents a large investment, having numerous substantial buildings, including a large roomy home for the accommodation of about seventy people. There are also grain and stock barns. Adams County does not have an excessively large number of dependent people, and the average number the year around is about thirty-five.

Mr. Laughlin came to the superintendency of the infirmary from his own farm in Jefferson Township, where for many years he had successfully operated his place of eighty acres and where he had lived for over half a century. He had been honored with public office before his present one and for five years was township trustee and a member of the Board of County Commissioners seven years just before accepting his appointment as infirmary superintendent.

Mr. Laughlin was born in Union County, Indiana, November 9, 1854. He was a small boy when his parents removed to Adams County and he grew up at the old homestead in Jefferson Township. He is a son of James and Mary (Joyce) Laughlin, both natives of County Mayo, Ireland, and of old Irish Catholic stock. Immediately after they married in the old country they set out by sailing vessel and after a voyage of six weeks landed in New York, going west to Cincinnati, where James Laughlin found work as a railroad hand. Some sixty-seven years later he moved to Liberty in Union County, Indiana, and followed similar work there until he brought the family to Jefferson Township of Adams County. Here his resources enabled him to buy a tract of uncleared land, and in the course of time he had it cleared up and comprising a good farm. He was an honored and substantial citizen of the county and died here in 1912 at the age of seventy-two. He had survived his wife, who died at the age of seventy-four. They were lifelong Catholics and he was a democrat.

Mr. Martin Laughlin was the only son of the family. He has three sisters living, and all are married and have children of their own. Mrs. John Kelly is the wife of a hardware merchant at Geneva. Mrs. Adelia Ford also lives at Geneva. Margaret is the wife of Joseph Reuben and they live on the old Laughlin homestead in Jefferson Township.

Martin Laughlin married for his first wife in Adams County Mary A. Kenney. She was born and reared in Indiana, her parents coming from County Mayo, Ireland. Her death occurred in Jefferson Township in 1890 when in the prime of life and at the birth of her first child, Michael D., who survived her and died a boy six years old. Mr. Laughlin married for his second wife in Potter County, Pennsylvania, Miss Adelia O'Donnell. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1860, daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Kinney) O'Donnell, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They spent many years of their lives on a farm in Potter County, Pennsylvania, where her father died when past seventy years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin and family are prominent members of the Catholic Church. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, and has done much effective work in the democratic party, both as a local leader and as a delegate to state conventions.

Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin have a family of very bright and interesting children. The oldest, Dayton, was educated at home and in Valparaiso University and is now employed in the steel mills at Gary, Indiana. Carl S. also finished his education at Valparaiso and is now living in Montana. Emmett J., aged nineteen, has attended Valparaiso College and

is now employed at Buffalo, New York. Martin A. is a student in high school, Mary is now teaching school, and Grace, aged fourteen, is one of the capable scholars in the home schools.

Mr. Laughlin while he was living on the farm was the first president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Geneva, holding the position for three years.

ELMORE J. COOK. Thirty-five years a resident of Adams County, Elmore J. Cook has a record not only of progressive farming but of progressive citizenship, and a man who has stood every test of character and popularity in the community where so many years have been spent. His name as a good farmer and good citizen is widely known throughout the county and especially in his home community of Washington Township.

Mr. Cook was born in Orleans County, New York, September 28, 1857. He has an interesting and honorable ancestry. His great-grandfather Lemuel Cook played the part of a brave and patriotic soldier in the Revolutionary war. After that war he located in Orleans County, New York, then a pioneer wilderness, and he lived there until his death. His life was a remarkable one on many counts, one of which was that he was one hundred and thirteen years old when he died. He possessed great strength and energy and his keenness of intellect remained with him to the very end. One of his children was Curtis Cook, who was born in Orleans County, and he and his good wife Rebecca spent their years in that community as quiet and respected farming people. Curtis Cook died when nearly ninety years of age. He was a whig in politics and was noted for his devotion to high standards of Christian conduct. He and his wife had three sons and one daughter: Henry M., William and Whitney, and Rosetta, all of whom grew up, married, had children, and attained advanced age.

Henry M. Cook, father of Elmore J., was born in Orleans County, New York, October 7, 1809. He grew up in that section and married there Sabina Elmore, also a native of Orleans County, and nine years her husband's junior. After their marriage they settled on a farm adjoining the old Cook place. Five children were born to them: Ida L., the oldest, was born in 1855, and her first husband was Moore Noyse. Mr. Noyse was a very estimable man. His death occurred suddenly, from a stroke of lightning. At the time he and his brother-in-law Frank Conner were walking along protecting themselves from the descending rain at Paw Paw, Michigan, and both were instantly killed by the lightning. Ida L. Noyse subsequently married Lawrence Wines and their present home is at Maywood, Chicago. For twenty-one years Mr. Wines has been an employe of the Chicago postoffice. Mrs. Wines has a daughter by her first husband, Beulah, now wife of George Coyle of Chicago. The second in the family is Elmore J. Carrie S., the third, is the wife of Frank Conner, above mentioned, and by him she had a son Frank, Jr. She married for her second husband Fred Williams, and they became the parents of two children, Mabel and Martha. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are now deceased. Mabel, the fourth in the family, is the wife of Newton Shennefield, a farmer near Batavia, Branch County, Michigan. James Eyar, who lives at Jackson, Michigan, has been three times married and has one child, Huber, by his first wife who was Delsie Dubendorf of Coldwater, Michigan.

Elmore J. Cook grew up and spent his early life chiefly in and around Paw Paw, Michigan. He married in that city Miss Alice Tippy, who was born in Westerville, Delaware County, Ohio, July 6, 1854. At the age of five years her family moved to Illinois and a year later went

to Kosciusko County, Indiana, where she grew up and lived until she was grown, when she moved to Paw Paw, Michigan, to the home of a sister, Mrs. Mary Oaks, who lived near Hartford, Michigan. Mrs. Cook is a daughter of Elias and Celesta (Lane) Tippy, both natives of Ohio and of Pennsylvania parents. They were married in Ohio, moved to Illinois, and spent their last years in Kosciusko County, Indiana, where her mother died at the age of sixty-one and her father when past seventy. Mrs. Cook was one of ten children, five sons and five daughters. One son and five daughters are still living, all married and all have children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cook were born eight children. A typhoid epidemic took away three of their children about the same time, Bertha B., Grace and Weldon. Bertha was a young woman of about eighteen when she died. Lena, the oldest of the living children, is the wife of Lawrence Strickler, a successful farmer in section 36 of Washington Township. They have two children, Lester aged seven and Mildred aged four. The next in age to Lena was Florence, who died when fifteen years old. Henry M. is now owner of a good farm in section 36 of Washington Township. He married Ona Durbin of Monroe Township and they have four children, Glenn aged seven, Gale aged five, Esther, born in March, 1916, and Alice, born in February, 1918. Nola married Frank Haggard, a Washington Township farmer, and they have a son Harold now eight years old. Beulah, the youngest of the children, is the wife of Rev. Dennie M. Lyons of Portland, Indiana. Rev. Mr. Lyons is a preacher in the Church of God, and for the past seven years has been engaged in Evangelical work. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons have one child, Doris Lavon, born March 25, 1917.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Elmore J. Cook moved from Michigan to Kosciusko County, Indiana, and in 1882 came to Adams County. They had little capital, but had a splendid equipment of ambition, energy, thrift, and other virtues that have enabled them to succeed. They located on eighty acres of land in section 36 of Washington Township. Most of this land was then covered with brush and timber and its clearing has been an achievement of which Mr. Cook may well feel proud. He has kept the property in a high state of cultivation and has added much to the value of the farm by substantial building improvements. He has a good house, a number of farm buildings including a hip-roofed barn, 36 by 58 feet. This home is endeared to Mr. and Mrs. Cook by many associations, it was the home of their children as they grew up, and besides their own relatives they are surrounded today by a host of good friends who think nothing and speak nothing but good of these worthy people. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are active members of the Church of God. He is a republican in politics and is a member of the Township Committee. He and his son have 160 acres.

Daniel A. Rumple. Fortunate is the man who can make his business his hobby for he combines business with pleasure all the time, profits himself and others, and is very likely to grow old gracefully and with honor.

The daily enthusiasm and the work to which Daniel A. Rumple devotes his time and energies is operating a farm in Jefferson Township of Adams County, the specialty of which is the breeding and raising of the big type Poland China hogs. Experts are pretty well agreed that no finer examples of the big type Poland Chinas are found anywhere than those constituting the Rumple herd. The head of his herd is Rumple's Wonder 101809, an animal which by its size and characteristics and breeding record has attracted attention from swine men all over the country.

Mr. Rumple's farm and the home of his industry is in Jefferson Township, 5½ miles east and 2½ miles north of Geneva and the same respective distances east and south of Berne. The Rumples are an old and prominent family of Jefferson Township and Mr. Rumple was born on a farm adjoining his home place July 25, 1889, a son of J. H. and Louisa (Kelley) Rumple. Both parents are still living. Daniel spent his boyhood days on the farm, was educated in the district schools during the winter, and at the age of twenty did his first work as a teacher. He taught three terms in Jefferson Township. After his marriage he went to farming and has made a success largely through concentrating upon his specialty. Mrs. Rumple is a loyal assistant and advisor in his business and is largely responsible for another specialty of the Rumple farm, the breeding of high class Brown Leghorn chickens. Mr. Rumple holds annual sales of his hogs and these sales are attended by swine men from all this part of the country and there is keen competition among them for the animals offered for sale. Mr. Rumple is also a stockholder in the Berne Grain & Hay Company, is a stockholder in the Pure Serum Plant at Thorntown, Indiana, is a stockholder in the National Poland China Association of Winchester, Indiana, and is a member of the Evangelical Association and is teacher and treasurer of its Sunday school.

In 1898 Mr. Rumple married Miss Emma Booher, who was born in Jefferson Township and was educated here in the common schools. They have one daughter, Mayme A., born in March, 1899.

Job L. Yaney of Jefferson Township, Adams County, has contributed services to that community not only as a farmer and business man but also in public affairs, and is honored at the present time with the duties and responsibilities of the office of township trustee.

Mr. Yaney was born in Mercer County, Ohio, four miles from Celina on August 1, 1863, son of Daniel and Julia (Burd) Yaney. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, where they grew up, and after some years of residence in Ohio came to Adams County, Indiana, in 1882, and here spent the rest of their days and passed away with the honor and esteem of a large community. Of their children the following are still living: I. F. Yaney of Kirkland Township of Adams County; Mary E., wife of William Herron; Job L.; and Julia, living at Springfield, Ohio, widow of Jonathan Champer.

John L. Yaney grew to manhood in Mercer County, Ohio, had a district school education, and was about nineteen years old when the family came to Adams County. He afterwards attended the Portland Normal School and while farming during the greater part of the year taught ten terms of school in Jefferson Township.

June 20, 1886, Mr. Yaney married Miss Rebecca Buckmaster. She was born in Jefferson Township June 16, 1868, daughter of David and Sarah (Hutchinson) Buckmaster. Her father was a native of Holmes and her mother of Wayne County, Ohio, and both had been married previously. Mrs. Yaney has four brothers and sisters: W. V. Buckmaster, former trustee of Jefferson Township; Luella; Jesse A., a teacher in Jefferson Township; and Amos D., cashier of the Lynn Grove Bank.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Yaney located on a farm in Jefferson Township, and that has been their home ever since. They have eighty acres of land well cultivated and improved and devoted to general farming and stock raising. For some seven or eight years Mr. Yaney was associated with D. A. Rumple and Jesse A. Buckmaster as contractors in the local oil fields, and this firm drilled some eight or nine wells on the Yaney place.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Yaney, eight of whom are still living: Floyd, who is married and lives in Wabash Township; Luella, wife of G. C. Runkel; Jesse L., who is married and lives at Fort Wayne; Alta, wife of Ralph Smitley; Hattie and Hazel, twins, both at home; Edna and Merrill P., also members of the home circle. The family belong to the Church of the Brethren at Bethel Church. Mr. Yaney is an active democrat and prior to his election as township trustee was for three years township assessor.

ISAAC TEEPLE. It is doubtful if any one citizen supplies more of the general business activities of the community of Geneva than Isaac Teeple. Mr. Teeple is primarily a farmer, is also an extensive dealer in livestock, and has numerous other connections due to his long and successful residence and citizenship in this community.

Mr. Teeple was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County, Indiana, on May 7, 1855. His birthplace was where the village of Revere now stands. He is a son of James B. and Mary (Smith) Teeple, both natives of Ohio, his father of Franklin County and his mother of Fairfield County. His father was one of the successful agriculturists of Adams County from early manhood and married here Miss Mary Smith, who had come to the county at the age of two years. Isaac Teeple's maternal grandfather, Zachariah Smith, was the first elected sheriff of Adams County. He was born in Ohio in 1809 and in 1835 came with his wife and family to Adams County, Indiana, settling in St. Mary's Township. Upon the organization of the county he was elected sheriff and served two terms and made a splendid record as an officer. It was his unpleasant duty to escort the first convict sentenced in the county to prison. He also filled the office of assessor three terms, and was narrowly defeated as a candidate for the legislature. He helped lay out the county seat of Wells County. Zachariah Smith was drowned in the St. Mary's River on July 7, 1844, while endeavoring to cross that stream on an unselfish mission in behalf of a sick person.

Isaac Teeple was reared on the old farm in St. Mary's Township and derived his early advantages from the district schools. At the age of twenty-one he married Miss Rachel S. Moser of Van Wert County, Ohio. After their marriage they lived in St. Mary's Township four years and then moved to Jefferson Township. At the present time Mr. Teeple owns 290 acres of highly improved and valuable land in both Wabash and Jefferson townships.

He was one of the organizers of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank at Geneva and has been vice president since the organization. He is especially well known over this part of the state for his business as a livestock dealer and buys, sells and ships large numbers of hogs, sheep and cattle from the primary points of production to the markets. Politically Mr. Teeple is a republican. His wife is an active member of the Christian Church. They have a family of seven children: David H., Lola G., James L., Joseph, Ray, Fay and Paul.

JOHN TONNER. A well-known and prominent citizen of Adams County, John Tonner, has been actively and profitably engaged in general agriculture in French Township for many years, during which time he has contributed his full share towards advancing the interests of his community, for fully nine years having served acceptably as township assessor. He was born in the township where he now lives, February 7, 1865, of pure Swiss ancestry.

His father, the late Jacob A. Tonner, was born, bred and married in Switzerland. About 1840 he came with his family to the United

States, and after living for a short time in Ohio located in Adams County, Indiana. Buying land in French Township, he redeemed a farm from its original wildness, and was there successfully engaged in farming for nearly half a century. He married, in Switzerland, Elizabeth Adams, and of the eight children born of their union six are living, as follows: Jacob, living in Wells County, this state; Joseph, of French Township, Adams County; Isaac, of Wells County; Mary, single, living with her brother, John; John, of this sketch; and Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Baumgartner.

Brought up on the homestead, John Tonner attended the district school during his days of boyhood and youth, and remained beneath the parental roof-tree until thirty-five years of age, receiving regular wages for his labor after attaining his majority. After his marriage, he began housekeeping with his bride on the farm which he now owns and occupies, and which now, owing entirely to the sound judgment and persistent energy with which he has devoted himself to its care, is well cultivated, and a valuable piece of property.

Mr. Tonner married, in March, 1895, Mary Lobsiger, a native of Switzerland. She came with her parents to this country as a child of two years, and was reared and educated in Adams County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Tonner have two children, namely: Clyven A., born October 3, 1896; and Irene M., born August 9, 1901. Mr. Tonner, the present assessor of French Township, is actively identified with the democratic party, and in its ranks no truer or more faithful supporter of its principles can be found. In 1918 he was in the campaign for township trustee of French Township without opposition on the democratic ticket. For many years he has been appraiser for the county for the German Fire Insurance Company of French Township. Both he and his wife are members of the Reformed Church at Vera Cruz.

William Lammert was born in Adams County more than sixty years ago, and to get the exact time when the people of this name first became identified with Northeastern Indiana it would be necessary to go back fully three-quarters of a century. Few families have lived longer and have borne themselves with better reputation for diligence, effective work as farmers and good citizenship than the Lammerts in Adams County.

Mr. William Lammert was born in Preble Township of Adams County November 3, 1857, a son of William and Elizabeth Lammert. The parents were both born in Germany, came to this country in 1842, and a few years later invaded the wilderness of Adams County and secured a tract of eighty acres of completely new land, covered with woods and without any improvements worthy of the name. William Lammert, Sr., had a big task before him in felling the trees, digging up the stumps, getting the virgin soil under the plow, draining the low spots and otherwise developing a farm, but he did a man's part and both success and esteem came to him as one of the good and true men of the county. He and his wife lived long and industrious and useful years and both passed away in 1893, the father in the summer and the mother in the fall. William Lammert, Sr., paid $500 for his first eighty acres of land in Adams County. That same land today at a most conservative value would be worth at least ten times as much.

William Lammert, Jr., grew up in Preble Township, had the environment of the home farm for his scenes of youthful play and training and was educated in the public schools. He has one sister living, Mrs. Earnest Schlickman, and a half-sister, Mrs. William Hilgeman. Those deceased are Henry Hildebrand and Lizzie Hildebrand.

William Lammert lived on the home farm in Preble Township where all his children were born till he sold it and purchased a 120-acre farm 1½ miles northeast of Berne. Here he farmed for seven years and then sold this place and purchased what was known as the John Bogner farm containing 165 acres, 100 acres being river bottom land along the St. Mary River. After living on this for two years he traded it for the farm he now owns and which was all cleared and improved. After closing this deal Mr. Lammert retired from active life and turned the farm over to his two sons who now run it. Mr. Lammert owns a house in Decatur and here he now lives as a retired farmer. He is sixty-three years old and in good health. He married Elizabeth Scherry and they became the parents of six children, Otto, Bertha, Rhoda, Hulda, Anthony and Albert, all living.

Mrs. Lammert's parents also came from Germany and were pioneers of Preble Township, where her father bought forty acres from the Government and later sixty acres more. Both families have always been members of the Reformed Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Lammert give their active support to that denomination. Mr. Lammert is a democratic voter.

Charles B. Poling was brought to Adams County when a mere child, has lived here all his adult career, and has made a good record as a former teacher, as a practical farmer and business man. His name stands equally high as a citizen who supports and can be depended upon for those movements and enterprises which reflect public good.

He was born in Hocking County, Ohio, April 9, 1862, a son of Abel G. and Sarah J. (Moffit) Poling. His father was a native of Hocking County and his mother of Pennsylvania. After their marriage in Ohio they lived on a farm in Hocking County until 1866, when they brought their family to Adams County and first located in Washington Township. Later they bought eighty acres in Kirkland Township and that was their home during the rest of their active years. The father finally retired to Decatur where he died in October, 1901. His wife passed away March 3, 1891. Abel Poling was prominently identified with the Washington Methodist Episcopal Church, serving it as class leader, trustee, and superintendent of the Sunday school. Politically he was a republican. He had seven children, and five are still living: Arminda E., wife of William Russell of Fort Wayne; Miss Maggie; Charles B.; Robert W. and John W., twins, the former of Decatur and the latter of Dunkirk, Indiana; and the son Levi died December 5, 1917.

Charles B. Poling was old enough to have a few conscious recollections of the removal of the family from Ohio to Adams County. He grew up at the home of his father, attended the district schools, and was trained for a teacher in the county normal school. While living at home he taught school for eleven years.

On March 27, 1886, Mr. Poling married Ida K. Parish. She is a native of Adams County and was born on the farm where she now resides April 6, 1865. She also had a public school education and attended the county normal, and for about three terms was a teacher. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Poling rented land for a year, then bought a farm near their present place, and from it came to the old Parish farm where they now reside. This is located on Rural Route No. 5, 4½ miles southwest of Decatur. The Poling farm consists of 101⅔ acres and is one of the highly productive places of that community. Mr. Poling has had much success in the breeding of registered hogs and sheep. They are the parents of three children: Rolland G., at home; Mary N., a graduate of the Decatur High School and also at home; and D. Merle, who went from the Decatur High School into the Angola

Normal School and has been successful as a teacher. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. Poling is a trustee and class leader. He belongs to the Adams County Detective Association and is a republican in politics.

HERMAN W. SELLEMEYER. All the years of his life Adams County has been the home of Herman W. Sellemeyer, and those have been years of achievement in the material sense and also in the acquisition of the riches of community esteem paid him for his worthy life and the influence he has exerted for good.

The Sellemeyer home is one of the good farms of Adams County, located 2½ miles south of Decatur. Mr. Sellemeyer was born at the home of his parents in Preble Township, July 14, 1859. He is a son of Ernest and Christina (Oeting) Sellemeyer. His parents were natives of Germany and came with their respective families to the United States and were married in Preble Township of Adams County. The father and mother then settled on a farm in that township, buying land that was covered with heavy woods and brush and their labors transformed it into productive fields. They spent the rest of their days in that locality. They were active members of the German Reformed Church and for a number of years he was superintendent of the Sunday school. In politics he was a democrat. Of the six children five are still living: Louisa, wife of Fred Reppert; William, a farmer on the old homestead in Preble Township; Fred, who lives in Decatur; Herman W.; and August, of Decatur.

Herman W. Sellemeyer had a good training during his early years for the serious responsibilities of life. He attended school in Preble Township and developed his strength and muscle by much experience on the home farm.

On April 17, 1884, at the age of twenty-five, he married Miss Sevilla Kohler. Mrs. Sellemeyer died September 16, 1917, after they had been happily married for thirty-three years. She was the mother of six children, and three are still living, Emma, a graduate of the common schools, wife of Rev. N. E. Vitz and mother of three children: Robert, Dorothea and Richard; and Matilda, who is a teacher in the Decatur graded schools; and Agnes, a graduate of the Decatur High School and the Indiana State University and now a teacher in high school in Kirkland Township. Mr. and Mrs. Sellemeyer also reared a foster daughter, Hulda Bauer, who entered their home when only eighteen months old.

Mr. Sellemeyer is a member of the German Reformed Church and has served as deacon for twenty years. In politics he is an influential member of the democratic party. The farm which his industry has made and paid for comprises seventy-two acres of well cultivated land. He has always lived a quiet and unassuming life, but one that has been productive of much good to his community. His housekeeper now is his foster daughter, Hulda, who after graduating from the Decatur High School taught four years in Preble Township.

JONATHAN RUMPLE is proprietor of the Mulberry Stock Farm, one of the places of particular interest and value in Jefferson Township of Adams County. It is located in section 17 of that township and on Rural Route No. 3 out of Berne. Mr. Rumple comes of a family of farmers and stock men, and he has made his success largely by specializing and by developing his native talents and faculties as a judge of livestock, and all the operations connected with stock farming.

Mr. Rumple was born in Jefferson Township April 13, 1883, a son of John H. and Louisa (Kelley) Rumple. His parents were also natives of Jefferson Township, and spent their active careers as farmers and

good citizens. His father acquired a large amount of land in the township. He was an active democrat. Of the six children five are still living: D. A. Rumple of Jefferson Township; Cora E., wife of J. H. Yehr of Bluffton; Jonathan; Alta M., wife of J. L. Buryer; Cleo, unmarried and living at home.

Jonathan Rumple was educated in the district schools and since early youth has manifested special ability in handling stock. Besides directing the operations of Mulberry Stock Farm, he is an extensive dealer in hogs and cattle and his farm comprises 160 acres, and in many respects its condition and improvements rank it as one of the best farms in the county. In 1916 he erected a modern home, and it is modern in every sense of the word, and might without disparagement be placed side by side with the best of city homes. Mr. Rumple has installed all the conveniences usually found in cities, including an individual electric light plant, a hot and cold running water bath facilities, and it is such a home as to satisfy the ambitions of himself and wife and in which they may be well satisfied to rear their children.

June 30, 1904, Mr. Rumple married Miss Sarah A. Booher, daughter of I. D. and Mary C. (Heinz) Booher. Mrs. Rumple was reared and educated in Jefferson Township. They have three children, Henry I., born April 14, 1908; V. Ruth, born April 19, 1911; and Robert J., born October 14, 1917.

Isaac D. Booher, father of Mrs. Rumple, was born at Dayton, Ohio, October 23, 1841, son of Daniel and Anna (Clark) Booher. He spent his early life on a farm, and after his marriage to Catherine Heinz, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, February 4, 1841, he continued farming in Montgomery County, Ohio, until 1874, when he removed to Jefferson Township of Adams County. He and his wife had eight children, Mrs. Rumple being next to the youngest. Mr. Booher is still living in Jefferson Township.

George G. Koons. The quality of the business establishments in a community may be taken as a pretty fair index of the class of people who patronize them, for merchants quickly learn what their customers want and select their stocks accordingly. Ossian, Indiana, is situated in the center of a prosperous farming community and merchandising is carried on here very extensively. When some of the first class business houses carry stocks that would be creditable to a large city, it is apparent that their class of patrons demands it. Such a one is the grocery house owned and conducted by George G. Koons, one of the native sons and representative men of Ossian.

George G. Koons was born May 10, 1885, and is a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Porter) Koons, who have been highly respected residents of Wells County, Indiana, for many years. Philip Koons was born in Pennsylvania, April 13, 1839, and came to Indiana in the spring of 1853. In the same year he entered into the sawmill business six miles from Fort Wayne, and operated there until 1867, when he took charge of a sawmill near Ossian and conducted it until 1872. He has been retired from active business for many years but remains interested in all that goes on in the community and is often called on to give his opinion on public matters. He is a member of Ossian Lodge No. 297, Free and Accepted Masons, and in that organization and among his fellow citizens generally is very highly esteemed. He married Elizabeth Porter, who also survives. She was born in Ohio, October 13, 1846, and was brought to Indiana October 13, 1856, and was married to Philip Koons on June 18, 1868. They have the following children: Edith, who is the wife of R. A. Hatfield; Sadie, who is the wife of J. F. Gorrell; Dalbert, who

married Hattie Spears; James, who married Blanche Henderson; and George G.

George G. Koons obtained his education in the public schools of Ossian and afterward had business experience in clerical capacities. On August 1, 1909, Mr. Koons embarked in a grocery business of his own at Ossian, and has been successful from the beginning. His fine class of goods, their freshness and wholesomeness, soon attracted the patronage he desired and in a number of ways he has quietly expanded until he now carries a full stock of staples and luxuries. His methods of business are honest and upright and his manner courteous and obliging.

Mr. Koons was married May 6, 1906, to Miss Edna Hannah, who is a daughter of James and Lucinda (Swaim) Swaim. Mr. and Mrs. Koons have four children: Claud, aged seven; Ralph, who died at the age of two; Elizabeth, two years old; George, aged four months. Mr. and Mrs. Koons are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally he is identified with Ossian Lodge No. 297, Free and Accepted Masons, and Ossian Lodge No. 343, Knights of Pythias. Politically he is a republican, and personally he is popular with his fellow citizens because of his many sterling traits of character and a pleasant, genial temperament that makes him companionable.

Franklin Snyder is one of the oldest residents of Adams County, has passed the age of fourscore, and for fully three-quarters of a century has been a resident of this county. He is also honored and respected as a surviving veteran of the great war which freed the slaves and made this a united country. Mr. Snyder's home is a well improved little farm of forty-four acres in section 32 of Jefferson Township. His daily mail delivery is on Route No. 2 from Geneva.

Mr. Snyder was born in Champaign County, Ohio, August 16, 1834, a son of Jesse and Mary (Huffman) Snyder. His father and mother were both natives of Virginia, where they grew up and married and then moved to Champaign County, Ohio, locating north of Urbana. Here the father, a blacksmith, built a shop and rendered service to the farmers of a large community. In 1840 he sold out his interests in Champaign County, Ohio, and came to Adams County, Indiana, which was then virtually a wilderness. In 1843 he located at New Corydon, Indiana, in Jay County, where he set up a shop and gave the services of his trade to the community for a long period of years. Both parents died at New Corydon. His father was a republican.

Franklin Snyder was eight years old when his father moved to New Corydon and there he attended the common schools and his early experiences were as a farm boy.

August 16, 1862, he enlisted in Company E of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry, and was mustered in at Wabash, Indiana, and from that time to the close of hostilities was with his regiment in all the campaigns, marches and battles and rendered faithful duty as a soldier. He is a member of Grand Army Post No. 83 and was formerly officer of the day of the post at New Corydon. Mr. Snyder votes the republican ticket.

He married Sarah E. Fogle, who died in May, 1917. Their only surviving child is James Snyder, until recently clerk in the postoffice at Portland, Indiana, but now with his father on the farm. Mr. Franklin Snyder has five grandchildren.

A. G. Kraner is an Adams County citizen who has seen a great deal of life, both in the Middle West and in the Far West when the Far West spelled Indiana, excitement and danger. Mr. Kraner has come to success through his own efforts and may properly take pride in all that

he has achieved in building up his financial independence. He now has one of the fine farms in Jefferson Township, located in section 32.

He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 11, 1841, a son of Jacob and Susan (Taylor) Kraner. His father was born in Virginia and his mother in New Jersey and they married in Fairfield County, Ohio, where they continued to live until the death of Jacob Kraner. They had only two children, Jacob and A. G., the former now deceased. The widowed mother finally came to Adams County, Indiana, and spent her last years here. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. G. Kraner came to Adams County, Indiana, when about twenty-seven years of age. In early manhood he had been attracted to the field of adventure opened up by the discovery of the mines of the Far Northwest in what is now the State of Idaho, and was one of the pioneers of that territory in 1863. He remained in that district about seven years, was connected with various lines of undertakings and business, and while there gained the nucleus of the capital which he has prudently managed and developed to a financial competence since his return to Indiana. On returning to Indiana he bought his present farm of 160 acres, and has lived here ever since. Mr. Kraner's land is in the region of oil development in Northeastern Indiana, and he personally supervised the sinking of twenty wells.

Besides his fine farm he is a stockholder and formerly a director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Geneva. Mr. Kraner married Miss Rose Fravel. They have four children: Charles, on the police force at Kokomo, Indiana; Homer, living in California; Ed, of Geneva; and Irene, wife of Dick Myers, living in California. Mr. Kraner also has four grandchildren. In politics he is a republican.

Grant G. Owens. A man of sterling worth and pronounced ability, Grant G. Owens for the last dozen years has been closely identified with the agricultural business interests of Adams County. He is an Indiana man, was reared and trained on an Indiana farm, and has done much to enhance the productiveness of the farms of Washington Township, where he owns one of the good places. His home is five miles southwest of Decatur.

Mr. Owens was born in Benton County, Indiana, January 7, 1872, son of George and Abigail (Sargent) Owens. His father died in 1875 when Grant was only three years old. The mother, who was born in Warren County, Indiana, married a second time and died in Benton County in 1905. She was the mother of four children by her first marriage: Emma, wife of Henry Coats; Sherman of Elkhart, Indiana; Grant G.; and Lottie, wife of William Detrick of Lafayette, Indiana.

Grant G. Owens grew up on a farm in Benton County, had a public school education, and also spent one year in the college at Valparaiso. After leaving school he began farming, and that has been his steady vocation now for a quarter of a century.

February 7, 1897, he married Miss Gertrude H. Campbell. She was born in Benton County December 1, 1879, and grew up there and attended the local schools. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Owens located on a farm in Benton County, but in the spring of 1907 came to Adams County, Indiana, where they bought 119 acres in section 19, Washington Township. This property has undergone many improvements since they took charge and it is a home of prosperity and of a family of high minded people.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens have four children: Russell, born July 4, 1898, a graduate of the common schools and still at home; Forest, born in 1900, is also a graduate of the common schools; and Harold, born in 1910, and Mildred, born in 1911, who are still in school. The family

are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Mr. Owens is one of the church trustees. He is also a member and assistant secretary of the Adams County Horse Thief Association. In politics he is a republican and has served as precinct chairman.

William Moeschberger. The best years of his life Mr. Moeschberger has devoted to the business of farming and the results of his efforts stand out conspicuously to the visitor in Washington Township. The Moeschberger home is in section 23, a fine productive farm of 100 acres. One of its conspicuous improvements is a barn 35 by 70 feet. Mr. Moeschberger is very successful in handling hogs, and has a special building devoted to them, 20 by 50 feet. Other farm buildings comprise granaries and poultry houses and he has one of the comfortable and substantial homes of that community.

Mr. Moeschberger has owned this farm since 1910 and has not only kept its productive capacity up to a high standard but has added many improvements and facilities. He went to Washington Township from Monroe Township, where he had his home for six years. For many years Mr. Moeschberger lived in French Township of Adams County, where he was born January 21, 1865, and was reared and received his education there.

His parents were John and Margaret (Saurer) Moeschberger, both natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland, and of families that were long identified with the German Reform Church. They were brought when children by their respective parents to the United States. The mode of crossing the ocean was a sailing vessel, and it required fully sixty days to make the voyage. The Moeschberger and Saurer families first settled in Wayne County, Ohio, and subsequently moved to Vera Cruz in Adams County, Indiana, locating there in the midst of the woods. The Moeschbergers established their home in French Township, while the Saurers lived just over the line in Wells County. These families brought some excellent qualities of good character and industry into their respective neighborhoods, and the grandparents lived out their years of usefulness, and all of them were quite old when they died. In politics these families supplied democratic voters as a rule.

After John and Margaret Moeschberger married they located on a farm in French Township, where the former by his industry cleared up a considerable tract of land and enjoyed prosperity sufficient to provide good homes for their children. He died there in March, 1884, in his seventy-first year and the mother passed away in September, 1894, when nearly seventy-five years of age. Both had been prominent from the beginning in St. Luke's German Reformed Church. William Moeschberger was one of the younger in a family of six sons and five daughters. Three of his brothers and one sister are still living, all married, and nearly all the children grew to maturity and established homes of their own.

Mr. William Moeschberger married in Wabash Township of Adams County Miss Bertha Swarz. She was reared and educated in that township, and was born August 30, 1871. She is a sister of County Commissioner Robert Swarz and a daughter of Carl and Magdalena (Garber) Swarz, both natives of Canton Berne. They also came when children to the United States, and from Wayne County, Ohio, the respective families moved to Wabash Township of Adams County. They were pioneer settlers here and had come through the woods with wagons and ox teams. The older members of the Swarz family were progressive farmers and were active in the Reformed Church. Carl Swarz and wife after their marriage spent their active years on a farm in Wabash Township, where

he died when past sixty-five years of age. Mrs. Moeschberger's mother died in March, 1917, at the age of seventy-five.

Mr. and Mrs. Moeschberger have an interesting family of children: Laura, who graduated from the fort Wayne Business College in 1917; Orilla; Frank, aged twenty, and now taking an active part in the management of the home farm; Carl, aged seventeen, who has recently completed the course of the public schools; Edgar, twelve years old and a schoolboy; and Helen, six years old. The parents have taken much pains to give their children the best advantages both at home and in school. The family are members of the Reformed Church in Decatur and Mr. Moeschberger is a democrat in politics.

THEO A. BEERBOWER has lived most of his life in Adams County. Farming has absorbed his energies and has given him the substantial prosperity he now enjoys. He has long lived and been a factor in the affairs of Jefferson Township, his home being in section 16 on Rural Route No. 2 out of Geneva.

Mr. Beerbower was born in Whitley County, Indiana, October 15, 1865, son of Moses and Cynthia (Hubbard) Beerbower, the former a native of Wayne County, Ohio, and the latter of Indiana. The Hubbards were early settlers in Huntington County, Indiana. Moses Beerbower and wife had seven children, four of whom are still living, two dying in infancy and one in manhood. The survivors are: Louis, of Liberty Township, Wells County; John M., a retired farmer of Warren, Indiana; Theo A., and Frederick G., who is a farmer living in Missouri.

Theo A. Beerbower spent the first five years of his life in Whitley and Huntington counties and then for five years his parents lived in Wells County. In 1875 the family came to Adams County, and this has been his home for over forty years. He grew to manhood here, and acquired such advantages as the common schools could offer.

Theo A. Beerbower married Cinda Heimbarger, daughter of George and Louise (Lawrence) Heimbarger, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Ohio. Her parents married in Ohio and in the fall of 1865 settled in Adams County, Indiana, where the rest of their days were spent. Mrs. Beerbower grew up on a farm in Jefferson Township and was prepared for the responsibilities of married life by an education in the district schools and by thorough home training. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Beerbower lived on a farm in Wabash Township two years, and then bought their present place in the midst of the woods. Most of the woods have disappeared today, and out of them has emerged a home of comfort and one that represents independence and all the good things that toil and good management can effect. The Beerbower home comprises eighty acres. It is conducted as a general farming and stock raising proposition, and Mr. Beerbower is one of the men who are breeding the big type of Poland China hogs. Politically he is a democrat and he and his wife are active members of the Evangelical Association at Mount Carmel. He is active both in the church and Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Beerbower have four children: Blanche, a graduate of the common schools and still at home; Russell, Lloyd and Gladys. Gladys is still a school girl.

JOHN J. HOFSTETTER. A farm that has been made to respond to the intelligent cultivation of one owner through a long period of years is that owned by John J. Hofstetter in section 17 of Wabash Township, Adams County. It is one of the fine country homes and farms of the county, and has been made to contribute an important share to the volume of crops for which this section of Northeastern Indiana is famous.

COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF JOHN F.
SNOW, JANUARY, 1918

Mr. Hofstetter represents the sterling element of the Swiss people who have done so much in the development of Adams County. He was born in Switzerland December 4, 1865, son of John and Fannie (Hirshy) Hofstetter. His parents came to America in 1871 when he was six years old, first locating in Harrison Township of Wells County and later moving to French Township of Adams County. The mother is still living a mile southwest of Craigsville in Wells County. The father was an active churchman and followed farming all his life. There were eight children, four still living: John J.; Fred, a farmer near Peoria, Illinois; Christ, living at Decatur, Indiana; and Rosa, wife of Joel Neuenschwander, whose home is near Tocsin.

John J. Hofstetter grew up on the old farm in Adams County, had a district school education, and was a factor in the household and assisted his parents until he was past twenty-one. On November 23, 1889, he married Miss Rosa Mettler, who was born in Wabash Township of Adams County June 1, 1868, daughter of David and Catherine (Nussbaum) Mettler. Her parents were natives of Switzerland, came to this country single, and were married in Adams County. They lived for many years on a farm in Wabash Township, where the mother died, and the father passed away at Berne. Mr. and Mrs. Hofstetter had eleven children, three of whom, Sylva, Ernestina and Agnes, are deceased. Those still living are: Otto, Hugo, Walter, Lillie, David, Ernest, Franklin and Luella.

The family are active members of the Reform Church and Mr. Hofstetter is one of the elders. Politically he is a democrat. The farm which has been his home for so many years comprises a quarter section lacking a half acre in section 17 of Wabash Township, and he also owns fifty acres in Mercer County, Ohio. Mr. Hofstetter raises the staple crops and also keeps good grades of stock.

John Fletcher Snow was born in Portland, Jay County, Indiana, the date of his birth being June 17, 1854. In the spring of 1860, he removed with his parents, Dr. Barton B. Snow and Rebecca H. Snow, to their new home in the southern part of Adams County, near the banks of the Wabash River, to a farm upon which the Village of Ceylon was subsequently platted. In his youth John F. Snow attended the short terms of district school, while in session, and worked on the farm and in the lumber mills then operated by his father. Educational advantages then were very limited throughout the country district. However, his parents were readers of several useful periodicals which, in a way, stimulated a desire for knowledge. The Christian Advocate and the Cincinnati Enquirer were as eagerly expected at the Snow home, in their time, as were the events of the regularly accepted holidays.

At the age of eighteen he entered Ridgeville College as a student. The death of his parents greatly interfered with his plans for securing an education, and it was not until ten years later that he received his Bachelor of Science degree. By hard work and diligent application he secured a license to teach in the public schools. At the conclusion of his third term as a teacher he took an outing of a few months, in a tour of some of the cities and the country east of the Alleghanies. This verdant youth as an educator had much to learn. On his return trip, a part of which was down the Ohio River, he visited several points of historic interest. This brief vacation gave him a glimpse at a part of the world beyond the Hoosier State, and was well worth more to him than several normal terms of school. At the death of his parents a family of four minor children were left to be cared for and educated. For five years he hired a housekeeper and kept the children together.

They all became well educated and subsequently found employment as teachers in the best schools in eastern Indiana.

In 1882, Mr. Snow was chosen as principal of the Geneva graded schools, and in 1883 was elected county superintendent of the public schools of Adams County, Indiana. He successfully served in this capacity for a number of years, within which time he took an active part in educational meetings, and was a member of the Indiana State Teachers' Association, and served for the year 1892 as president of the Indiana County Superintendents' Association. In 1897, as a student, he entered the law office of France and Merryman, in Decatur. This firm had an extensive law practice which gave the law student an opportunity to see the practical side of the law business. After close application for a time, to the study of the law, he opened a law office for himself, and connected with it a real estate business, which he is still successfully operating, at Decatur.

In politics Mr. Snow is a democrat, and in 1898 he was a candidate for the position of joint state senator for the district composed of Adams and Allen counties, Indiana. He received the entire democratic vote of his home county, but the Fort Wayne democracy gave the senatorial nomination, and credit, to one of her own citizens. As a descriptive writer, Mr. Snow has produced many worthy articles for publication; one of which is found in this volume under the title of "Educational Development." He is also the author of "Indiana Biographies" and "Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana." He is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a conservative, conscientious citizen.

Dr. Barton B. Snow was born in Pennsylvania. His parents were James and Eleanor (Tate) Snow. The mother was of Irish parentage, and the father's parents were of English ancestry and lived near Oldham, in Massachusetts. Mrs. Rebecca H. (McDonald) Snow was a daughter of David and Polly (Ball) McDonald who were of Scotch-Irish parentage and resided in eastern Ohio; later they removed to Indiana, and Mr. McDonald became county sheriff and state representative of Adams County. Of a family of nine children born to Dr. Barton B. and Rebecca H. (McDonald) Snow but three are living: John F., Adda V. and Loretta G.

Sadie A. (Hoskinson) Snow, wife of John F. Snow, was born on the 11th day of November, 1857, in Licking County, Ohio. She was a daughter of Andrew J. and Mary (Foster) Hoskinson, whose parents were also residents of Licking County. In 1865 they removed to Indiana and settled on a farm in Blue Creek Township in Adams County; they subsequently removed to Ceylon at which place she was united in marriage on the 21st day of August, 1881, with John F. Snow. She received a good common school education and special instruction in music, for which she had a particular aptitude. Her father, Andrew J. Hoskinson, was a carpenter by trade, and a successful instructor in vocal music. He was the son of Andrew and Sarah (Baerd) Hoskinson, who were residents of Virginia before removing to Ohio. Andrew Hoskinson was a farmer and a soldier in the second war with England, the War of 1812. Mrs. Snow's mother, Mary (Foster) Hoskinson, was a daughter of Dan and Miranda (Umphry) Foster; she attended the public schools of Newark, Ohio. Miss Umphry's father was a prominent attorney of Cambridge in Guernsey County, Ohio. Mr. Foster was of English ancestry and resided in the State of Vermont before he came to Licking County, Ohio, where he engaged extensively in stock-raising and dairy farming.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Snow are the parents of two sons—Edwin E.,

who was born September 3, 1882, in the town of Ridgeville, Indiana, and Horace H., who was born November 11, 1886, in Decatur, Indiana. These sons were educated in the public schools at Decatur and subsequently learned the printer's trade, at which vocation they are now profitably engaged. When eight and twelve years of age, they began the publication of a small newspaper, known as the "Star News," a bi-monthly folio, which attained a good circulation and appeared regularly for about ten years without missing an issue.

On the 15th day of April, 1906, Edwin Earl Snow was married to Miss Myrtle Miller, a daughter of Charles T. and Ceretha A. Miller of Anderson, Indiana. To them have been born three children, Eleanor K., Carolyn C. and Mary Elizabeth Snow, all of whom are living. Horace H. Snow was married on the 12th day of April, 1909, to Miss Agnes Mylott, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Mylott, of Decatur, Indiana. To them have been born two children, Kathleen M. and Billy T. Snow, both living.

The eldest son, Edwin E., is a local staff correspondent of the Chicago Examiner, the Indianapolis News and the St. Louis Post Dispatch—in addition to his duties in a first-class printing office. The younger son, Horace H., is an expert linotype operator, who has served with credit in the offices of the Legal News and the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Russell R. Long represents the thrifty and progressive element of the agricultural citizenship in Wabash Township of Adams County. He has a good farm, one well tended, productive, and has made himself a factor in that rural community for many years.

Mr. Long was born on the old Long homestead in Wabash Township June 28, 1871, a son of Lewis and Mary A. (Blair) Long. His father, now deceased, was for many years one of the most useful citizens of Adams County.

Lewis Long was born in Union County, Indiana, in 1831, son of Robert and Mary (Kyle) Long, the former born in 1787, and the latter in 1790 in Pennsylvania. The Long family were pioneers. The nineteenth century had hardly dawned when they set out from Pennsylvania and pioneered in Ohio, and in 1816 they moved still further west to Indiana, where Robert Long died July 8, 1855. His widow died in Ohio February 3, 1871. They were Presbyterians and Robert Long was a cabinet maker by trade, but for many years cultivated 160 acres in Union County. He and his wife had ten children, six sons and four daughters.

Lewis Long grew to manhood in Union County, had a common school education, and at the age of twenty-two went to work at the carpenter's trade. More than half a century ago he came to Adams County and located on a farm in section 16 of Wabash Township. This land had originally been purchased by Robert Long. On May 29, 1862, Lewis Long married Mary Blair, who was born in Ireland in 1841 and was brought to America by her brother and sister. Lewis Long by many years of good management accumulated a farm of 240 acres. He was a democrat in politics and for a number of years filled the office of justice of the peace. He and his wife had eight children, Charles, the oldest, being deceased, and the others are: George B., of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; William J., of Crestline, Ohio; Eva, unmarried and living at Pittsburg; Russell R.; Alonzo, unmarried; Daisy, of Los Angeles, California; and Leona. Leona and Alonzo live on the home farm.

Russell R. Long grew up on the farm in Wabash Township and besides the district schools attended high school at Ceylon. On March 29, 1902, he married Miss Viola E. Burke, who was born in Jay County,

Indiana, and was reared there. Mr. and Mrs. Long have five children: Gladys C., who graduated from the common schools when only fourteen years of age; Harold C., Morris Wendell, Lowell and Robert L. The family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ceylon, and Mr. Long has done much to support the activities of that church, is one of the church trustees and has served as superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mr. Long owns a body of sixty acres of land, and is using his farm as the home of some very good livestock. He is a breeder of Duroc and Poland China hogs and keeps good grades of horses and cattle. He is a member of the Farmers Equity and in politics he is a democrat.

William Farlow learned his business as a farmer and stockman when a boy in Adams County, and having added to knowledge and experience the other qualities of industry and prudence, he has been getting steadily ahead in the world since he began his independent career fully forty years ago. The Farlow home is one of the generously proportioned and improved rural estates in the county located two and a half miles east and a quarter mile south of the village of Berne in Wabash Township.

Mr. Farlow was born in Jefferson Township of this county June 13, 1856, a son of Jacob and Sarah (Garber) Farlow. His father was born in Pennsylvania February 8, 1817, of a Pennsylvania German family, and during his youth no language was used in the home except the German tongue. It is said that he acquired his knowledge of English after his marriage and from his wife. His wife was born in Butler County, Ohio, July 17, 1821. After their marriage they settled at College Corners, Ohio, and for some years Jacob Farlow followed his trade as a cabinet maker. In pioneer times he came to Adams County and entered 160 acres in Jefferson Township. This was land upon which man had placed no improvement, and the heavy task of clearing and developing it was the product of his own industry and long continued toil. He and his wife spent their last years there. He was a member of the German Reformed Church, while she was a Methodist, and in politics he was a stanch republican. They had eleven children, three of whom are still living, William, Jacob and David, the latter a resident of Carroll County, Indiana.

William Farlow grew up on the farm in Jefferson Township, but on reaching the age of sixteen, when his mother died, he started out to make his own way in the world. He took with him only $3 in money, and going to Van Wert, Ohio, he found employment in a factory. Somewhat later he returned to Adams County and entered the service of a farmer and stockman whose daughter he afterwards married. He and his father-in-law then entered a partnership in the stock and lumber business, the firm name being Rawley & Farlow. Six years later the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Farlow then engaged in the grocery business at Geneva for eighteen months, and since that time has given his energies chiefly to farming and stock raising. He has also bought and shipped many carloads of livestock out of this part of Indiana.

June 7, 1884, Mr. Farlow married Effie May Rawley, who was born in Blue Creek Township of Adams County, daughter of Abram and Mary J. (Crawford) Rawley. Mrs. Farlow is a granddaughter of one of the finest citizens Adams County ever had, Josiah Crawford. He was one of the first settlers here. He was born at Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1821, had a good common school education, became associated with his father in merchandising, but in October, 1839, came to Adams County and took possession of the 520 acres of

land which he and his brother had entered and purchased the year previously. It is said that these brothers were the first to bring livestock into Adams County in large numbers, driving 140 head from Ohio. They also introduced the first Shorthorn cattle to this part of the state. They were specialists in stock raising, and became highly successful men. Josiah Crawford was a democrat and cast his first vote for General Jackson in 1832, was a member of the Board of County Commissioners from 1856 for a period of eighteen years, and in all respects his life was most exemplary and successful. He married in 1841 Rosanna Abnet, who was born in Virginia in 1816. Her parents Jacob and Sarah (Baker) Abnet settled in Jefferson Township of Adams County in 1839. Josiah Crawford and wife had only one daughter, Mary, who was born January 1, 1842, and died December 10, 1881, and by her marriage to Abram Rawley became the mother of Mrs. Farlow.

After his marriage Mr. Farlow settled on the farm where he now lives, and is now proprietor of 520 acres. He is a director of the Bank of Geneva and is an active republican in politics.

Mr. and Mrs. Farlow have seven children: Jennie; Arthur, a farmer in Wabash Township; Crawford, a farmer in Wabash Township; Lizzie A., unmarried; Gladys, wife of John R. Ludy; while Sampson and Eugene are the youngest.

Leander L. Dunbar has for many years been one of the substantial figures in the industrial and civic life of Adams County, was county commissioner for nine years, and has largely developed the manufacturing interests which are centered at Linn Grove.

He was born in French Township of Adams County September 6, 1850, a son of Lucien and Philena (French) Dunbar. Lucien Dunbar, a native of Oswego, New York, and of English ancestry, came when a young man to Adams County and located in French Township, where he married Philena French. Her father Joseph French was the first settler in that township and the locality was given its name in his honor. Joseph French was also from Oswego, New York. He had come to Adams County in early days, entered land in Hartford Township, and spent the rest of his years there. On coming to Adams County Joseph French had both entered and bought large tracts of land, and he became extensively interested in milling both as a lumber manufacturer and flour miller. Late in life he divided his extensive possessions among his children. Lucien Dunbar and wife had five sons: Byron, a resident of Wisconsin; Jefferson of French Township; Lewis C. of Bluffton; Leander L. and Lorenzo of Indianapolis.

Leander L. Dunbar grew up on his father's farm in French Township and lived at home until he was eighteen years of age. In the meantime he had attended the public schools. On leaving home he went to Wisconsin for a year, but with that exception his life has been spent in Adams County. Many years ago Mr. Dunbar engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages at Buena Vista in Hartford Township, and with various modifications and improvements has kept that business going to the present time. He is a man of original mind and resources, and has developed some successful inventions. In 1886 he was awarded a patent on the Excelsior Road Cart, which he proceeded to manufacture in his own shop, and he is also patentee of a post hole digger. In his plant at Linn Grove his principal output at present is upholstered chairs.

In February, 1875, he married Miss Mary Moeschberger, a native of Adams County and daughter of Jacob Moeschberger, one of the early settlers here. Mrs. Dunbar died December 11, 1913, the mother of four

children, Minnie, Carrie, Merlin M. and Cleo. Minnie is a graduate of the high school and was a teacher before her marriage to George Schlagenhauf; Carrie, who also finished the work of the high school and is now the wife of Dr. Harry Emick. Merlin M. Dunbar has made a notable record in scholastic affairs, is a graduate of the local high school, of the State University both in the scientific course and in law, and has taken advanced work at Chicago and in the University of Wisconsin. He has a life certificate as a teacher in Indiana, and is now superintendent of the Hartford City, Indiana, schools. Cleo, the youngest child, is the wife of Fred Steiner, a farmer in French Township of Adams County.

Mr. Dunbar has been one of the leading members in the democratic party in Adams County for over forty years. His first important office was as justice of the peace of Hartford Township, to which he was elected in 1876. In 1878 he was appointed county commissioner to fill a vacancy and he was continued in that office by re-election for nine years.

A. D. Buckmaster is cashier of the Bank of Linn Grove. He is a native of Adams County and a large number of the younger people in this section recall with special gratitude his services to them as a successful teacher. Mr. Buckmaster left school work to enter business at Linn Grove, and five years ago became connected with the bank. The Bank of Linn Grove was established in 1910 and has enjoyed a prosperous existence. It has a capital of $17,500 and is one of the well managed smaller banks of Adams and Wells counties.

Mr. Buckmaster was born in Jefferson Township of Adams County December 4, 1877, a son of David and Sarah (Hutchinson) Buckmaster, the former a native of Coshocton County and the latter of Holmes County, Ohio. Both the Buckmaster and Hutchinson families came to Indiana in early days, locating in Adams County, where they improved farms in Jefferson Township. David Buckmaster was married in that township and after that lived on a farm until his death in 1881. His widow survived him until September 1, 1915. Her children were small when David Buckmaster died, and she courageously took up double responsibilities caring for the family and managing the farm. Of the five children A. D. Buckmaster was the youngest. Four are still living, the oldest being Jesse, a teacher in Jefferson Township; W. V., who was formerly a teacher and now a farmer in Jefferson Township and also a road building contractor; and Rebecca, wife of J. L. Yaney, the present trustee of Jefferson Township.

A. D. Buckmaster grew up on the farm with his mother, and at an early age began doing what he could toward self-support and to help along the family affairs. He attended the district schools and also the Tri-State Normal School at Angola, and from that he went into school work as a teacher, which he followed in Adams County for a period of eight years. Later for a time he was a farmer and he also conducted a general store in Jefferson Township. In 1910 Mr. Buckmaster came to Linn Grove and began building up a good business in insurance and real estate. In July, 1912, he went into the bank at Linn Grove as assistant cashier and in October of the same year became cashier. The president of the bank is L. O. Bears, and the vice president O. V. Huffman. These three executive officers are also directors, the other directors being A. W. Sours, A. S. Kindel, Michael Miller, A. G. Brigg and Moses Angsberger.

Besides his stock and interests in the bank Mr. Buckmaster also owns a small farm of forty acres in Jefferson Township. Politically he is a

republican, is past noble grand of Berne Lodge No. 838 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a member of the Christian Church, and has done much to support Sunday school work, in which he is deeply interested. For the past three years he has been superintendent of the Christian Sunday School and was formerly teacher of a Bible Training Class, which had the distinction of being the only class in Adams County to complete the four years' course.

Mr. Buckmaster married Pearl Ramsey, who was born at New Corydon in Jay County, Indiana. They have five children, Kenneth, Sarah, Leota, Delno and Wright.

David Stucky is one of the men whose lives have been of constructive endeavor and of quiet but good citizenship in Adams County. For years he has enjoyed the proceeds of his labors as an agriculturist in Wabash Township and has reached a place in life where he can survey his own labors with satisfaction and take pleasure in the fine family of sons and daughters who have grown up around him.

Mr. Stucky, whose home is in sections 18 and 19 in Wabash Township, on Rural Route No. 3 out of Geneva, was born in French Township of Adams County March 10, 1857, a son of Christian and Fannie (Mosure) Stucky. His father was a native of France and the Stucky family has been identified with Adams County since pioneer times. The mother was born in Wayne County, Ohio. The parents married in Adams County and began housekeeping in French Township. The father bought a farm there and was engaged in its labors until he retired and moved to Linn Grove, where he spent his last years. They had thirteen children, two of whom died in infancy, and of the eleven that reached maturity six daughters and four sons are still living: David; Christ, in Michigan; Abraham of Decatur, Indiana; Henry of Toledo, Ohio; Leah, wife of Abraham Egby of Hartford Township; Catherine, wife of Peter N. Mosure; Mary, wife of J. Shindler of Berne; Rosa, wife of Sam Klopenstein of Michigan; Rachel, wife of Levi Klopenstein of Woodburn, Indiana; and Fannie, wife of Adam Augsburger.

Mr. David Stucky grew up on the old homestead in French Township, and had to be satisfied with a district school education. As far back as he can recall he was doing some of the duties on the farm and he kept up that labor until he was twenty-one. He then worked out by the month and finally invested his modest capital in a threshing outfit and a wood saw, and the operation of those two outfits kept him busy the best part of the year.

October 19, 1884, Mr. Stucky married Miss Barbara Rich, a native of French Township. After his marriage Mr. Stucky located on the farm he now owns. At that time nearly all the land was covered with timber. His own home was a log cabin, and he and his wife put up with its meager comforts some years. The individual labors of Mr. Stucky have been responsible for the present condition of the farm, which is one of the best in the township. He now owns 200 acres, and has excellent improvements.

Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stucky, ten of whom are still living, two dying in infancy. Ida is the wife of Joel Augsburger of Wabash Township; Elmore is in the hardware business at Woodburn, Indiana; Noah is a merchant at Linn Grove; Christ and Joseph, twins, are in the hardware business at Woodburn; Albert is assistant cashier of the Bank of Geneva; Lillian, Eli, Selma and Ivan, the younger children, are all at home, Ivan still being in school. The family are active members of the Defenseless Mennonite Church of French Township, and Mr. Stucky is one of the trustees of the church. He is also

a trustee of the Salem Orphanage located near Flanagan, Illinois. Mr. Stucky acknowledges no partisanship in politics and he has been content to exert his influence through his ability and success as a farmer, through the rearing of a family of honorable and hard working children, and the building up and maintenance of good influences around his home community.

Daniel P. Shoemaker, whose farm home is four miles west of Geneva in Hartford Township, is a member of that great body of industrious and thinking producers who earn every cent they get by adding honestly to the wealth of the world. He has been a farmer forty years or more, all the time in Adams County, and his own work and example have contributed to the fair reputation which Adams County enjoys among the best agricultural sections of the state.

Mr. Shoemaker was born on a farm in Adams County about a mile and a half east of where he now lives. His birth occurred June 7, 1854. He is a son of Jacob M. and Mary (Pontius) Shoemaker. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and the Shoemaker and Pontius families were among the pioneers of Adams County, Indiana, where Jacob and his wife married, then locating on a farm three miles west of Geneva. They were numbered among the industrious and thrifty people of their generation, and the efforts of Jacob Shoemaker resulted in the clearing up and ditching and general improvement of one of the good farms of Hartford Township. He finally removed to Geneva, where he and his wife died. While living in Hartford Township they attended the Methodist Episcopal Church, but at Geneva worshipped in the United Brethren Church. Politically Jacob Shoemaker was a democrat, but in local affairs was strictly independent. He and his wife had ten children: John P., Daniel P., Amos P., Lydia, who married John Heller. These four children were by Jacob Shoemaker's first marriage. By his second wife he was the father of George, Abe, Noah, Wilson, Rachel and Emma.

Daniel P. Shoemaker grew up on the old farm in Hartford Township and there he learned the value of honest toil as a means of earning and securing those things which his ambition craved. Even while attending the district schools during the winter terms he was making his services worth something on the farm, and during the summer he was one of the most dependable workers in the fields. He lived at home until he was twenty-one, and then for three years worked out by the month. He began his active career as a renter and continued in that way for five years, until his marriage.

April 9, 1882, Mr. Shoemaker married Miss Belle Taylor. She was born in Wells County, Indiana, daughter of Theodore Taylor. After his marriage Mr. Shoemaker continued renting for another three years, and then bought the land on which he lives today. It is difficult now to reconstruct the general appearance and condition of this farm when Mr. Shoemaker first bought it. Much of it was covered with brush and woods, and there were a number of years in which he had to divide his time between cultivating the crops and clearing away and ditching the soil for more extended cultivation. At first he lived in a log cabin, and when this was outworn he and his family moved into a commodious brick structure, which is one of the substantial homes of the township. Mr. Shoemaker's farm comprises a 121.6 acres. Good livestock has always been a feature of the Shoemaker farm and he has made something of a local reputation as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. He now has seven thoroughbreds, headed by a fine bull No. 39145. He has also bred Belgian horses. Mr. Shoemaker is a stockholder in the Farmers

and Merchants Bank at Geneva and in politics is independent. Mrs. Shoemaker is a member of the Disciples Church.

WALTER L. THORNHILL of Wabash Township, Adams County, is one of the active farmers and stockmen who are responsible for the "get together movement" in Adams County, and are seeking to break down the old isolation of farm life and improve at every possible point the conditions as well as the efficiency of the agricultural community. Mr. Thornhill has conclusively demonstrated his individual ability as a farmer, and for a number of years has taken an active part in the Farmers Institute, has filled the office of inspector, and has been a leader in institute work both in his own and adjoining counties of Indiana.

Mr. Thornhill's home is two and a half miles east of Geneva. He has lived in Adams County since boyhood. He was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, June 3, 1869, son of C. G. and Harriet H. (Hawkins) Thornhill. His parents were both natives of Virginia and represented old southern stock. In 1879 they came West, first locating in Darke County, Ohio, and six years later moving across the state line into Adams County, Indiana. Both parents spent the rest of their days here on a farm. They were members of the United Brethren Church at Sugar Grove, and the father was very active in its work. Of the five children three are still living, Daniel W., who remained in Virginia, Walter L., and Nora, wife of F. G. Beerbower of Columbia, Missouri.

Walter L. Thornhill has lived in Adams County since he was sixteen years of age. He was well educated in the common schools of Virginia, Ohio and Indiana, also attended the Marion Normal School and Taylor University at Upland, Indiana. This gave him a liberal education and opened up many opportunities and resources which might otherwise have been withheld from him. After his marriage he and his wife began as renters in Wabash Township and only gradually acquired the independence which they now enjoy. Mr. Thornhill has a good farm of ninety-five acres, and it represents the labor and the self-sacrifices of him and his wife through many years. Mr. Thornhill is a general farmer and is also widely known as a specialist in the raising of spotted Poland China hogs. He has a number of these fine animals, the herd being headed by "Thornhill's Pride."

In February, 1896, he married Miss Emma J. Armstrong of Wabash Township, where she was born and educated in the local schools. Mr. and Mrs. Thornhill have five children: Opal, a graduate of the common schools and now employed in the electric works at Fort Wayne; Elizabeth, who graduated from the Geneva High School in 1918; William J., a graduate of the common schools; Izora, who is educated in the high school and also in music; and Charles T., who is a student in the Geneva High School. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Thornhill is affiliated with Geneva Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is an active democrat. Besides his other service he was for six years a trustee of Wabash Township, and gave a most careful administration of matters entrusted to him especially looking after the schools.

T. J. MCKEAN, M. D. The only physician at Linn Grove, Doctor McKean has been a very busy practitioner, and his days and hours are almost filled with the work and services demanded of him in a professional capacity, so that he has little time or leisure for any other claims. He is one of the leading medical men of Adams County.

Dr. McKean was born in Washington Township of Adams County April 8, 1873, a son of John W. and Lydia (Stalter) McKean, the former a native of Harrison County and the latter of Allen County, Ohio. They married and lived for a number of years in Allen County before coming to Adams County, Indiana. In this county John W. McKean spent many years as an industrious and practical farmer, but finally retired and moved to Decatur. His wife having died, he went to live with his son at Linn Grove, and while there married a second time and he and his wife now live in Bluffton. There were ten children by the first marriage, seven of whom are still living. One of the sons is George E. McKean, former county surveyor of Adams County.

Dr. T. J. McKean spent his early life on a farm southwest of Decatur, and in his early years he aspired to some service and position not bounded by the horizon of the fields in which he worked. He attended the common schools, also the Monroe High School, and subsequently entered the Marion Normal School. For about six years he was one of the teachers of the county and largely through that profession paid his way through medical college. Doctor McKean entered the Indiana Medical College of Indianapolis in 1901 and graduated M. D. April 19, 1905. The following eighteen months he practiced at Monroe, but in September, 1906, moved to Linn Grove. He is a member in good standing of the Wells County and the State Medical Societies. Doctor McKean was for two years president of the Bank of Linn Grove, is still one of its stockholders, and among other property interests he owns considerable land in the county. He is a democrat in politics, is a member of the Evangelical Church at Linn Grove, is past grand of Linn Grove Lodge No. 683, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a member of the Encampment at Geneva, and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Doctor McKean married Clara B. Yake of Adams County. They have one son, Gorman Ferdinand, now attending the public schools of Linn Grove.

Andrew Gottschalk. Without doubt Andrew Gottschalk is one of the most widely known men of Adams County. His business and personal interests have been identified with the town of Berne almost from its establishment, and through his business and participation in business affairs he has been one of the constructive forces in the growth and development of that community. Mr. Gottschalk is a former county treasurer, and viewed from whatever angle his life presents many achievements which reflect honor upon the name.

While he is himself a native of Indiana, he belongs to a long line of German ancestors of the Kingdom of Wuertemberg. A professor in a Pennsylvania college as a result of much research has established the fact that this branch of the Gottschalks has a continuous history in Wuertemberg for fully a thousand years. Mr. Gottschalk's grandfather Andrew was a tiller of the soil and spent all his life in Wuertemberg. The family were Lutherans. The grandfather had six children, three sons and three daughters. All of them came to the United States.

The oldest was Jacob Gottschalk, who was born October 15, 1808. His first wife died in Germany, leaving two children, Barbara and Mary, the former now deceased, and the latter the widow of John Shigley, living at Berne. For his second wife Jacob Gottschalk married Christina Fox, who was also born in Wuertemberg. Their oldest child, George, was born in that country. In 1845 Jacob Gottschalk and his little family consisting of his wife, their one child and his two older children, set sail from Havre, France, and after ninety-three days on the ocean landed in New York City. They first located in Montgomery

County, Ohio, where three other children were born. The oldest of these, Sarah, is now a widow, Mrs. Betzner, living in Miami County, Indiana. Michael is a resident of Wells County, Indiana, and has a family. John died after his marriage in Fulton County, Indiana, and left sons and daughters.

Towards the close of the decade of the '40s the Gottschalk family came over the rough roads and through the woods into Wells County, Indiana, locating on a farm in Nottingham Township, where the industry of Jacob Gottschalk cleared up about eighty acres. He lived there as an industrious and competent farmer until his death on January 26, 1877. His wife died in 1855. He was a democrat and both were active members of the Evangelical Association. Several other children were born to them after they moved to Wells County. Mathias is now a farmer in Miami County and is married and has a family. Jacob, Jr., died in childhood in Wells County. The next in age is Andrew. Fred R. lived for many years on the old homestead in Wells County, where he died January 26, 1907, just thirty years to the day after his father's death. He was then forty-nine years of age and left a family of children. Noah, the youngest child, still lives on a part of the old homestead in Wells County and is married and has a family.

Mr. Andrew Gottschalk was born on a farm in Nottingham Township of Wells County, November 13, 1850. He was only five years old when his mother died. His father afterwards married Mrs. Elizabeth Walters Shepherd. She was a native of Germany and by her first marriage had two sons and by her marriage to Jacob Gottschalk was the mother of five. One of these second children, Amanda, now makes her home with Mr. Andrew Gottschalk.

Andrew Gottschalk grew up on his father's farm, was educated in the district and private schools of his native county and his first occupation away from the farm was teaching in his home township. He followed that occupation for about two years. Besides the local schools he attended a normal school at Bluffton.

On May 7, 1872, Mr. Gottschalk moved to Linn Grove in Adams County, and there went to work as a druggist. A few months later he formed a partnership with Mr. Peter Hoffman under the name of Hoffman & Gottschalk. Mr. Hoffman took the business at Linn Grove, while in November, 1872, Mr. Gottschalk came to Berne, which was then just an incipient village, possessing only two general stores and a blacksmith shop and saloon. The railroad had passed through this section of Adams County in the summer of 1871. Their pioneer drug enterprise was established in a small building east of the railroad, where the office of the Berne Lumber Company was later established. Mr. Gottschalk began selling drugs from that site on November 12, 1872. On July 1, 1874, they moved the stock into a new building, and in September, 1907, the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Gottschalk becoming sole proprietor of the store at Berne. In 1912 he supplanted his old business house by the erection of a fine block 22 by 80 feet, two stories and basement, but on the same lot which he has occupied since July, 1874. Here he is proprietor of one of the best equipped and stocked stores of its kind in Adams County. Mr. Gottschalk is a licensed pharmacist, having received his certificate as a result of many years' practical experience. All of his early contemporaries in business at Berne have since died or retired, and he is now the oldest business man in the town and has one of the oldest stores in the county. As a business man he has been very popular as well as successful and has made his store a center of the social life of the community. Mr. Gottschalk is a director of the Bank of Berne.

Early in life he became a local leader in the democratic party. From 1877 to 1883 he was postmaster of Berne, and from 1880 to 1882 was local justice of the peace. He was a member of the Democratic Central Committee of the county from 1882 to 1884, and in the latter year was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention at Indianapolis. In 1884 Indiana was one of the two states that decided Mr. Cleveland's election, and Mr. Gottschalk thus had more than local prominence in the election of the first democratic president from the time of the Civil war. He was also on the county ticket the same year, and was elected treasurer, moving to Decatur in September, 1885, to assume the duties of that office. He was re-elected in 1886 and served two terms. Among other offices he has been trustee of Monroe Township, for many years was notary public and has been especially influential among the English speaking people of the southern half of Adams County. It is said that his services have been in demand more than those of anyone else in advising people in matters of business transactions, in the drawing up of wills and the settling up of estates.

On May 9, 1875, in Shelby County, Ohio, Mr. Gottschalk married Miss Laura Sheets. She was born in Texas January 22, 1852, daughter of Philip and Cornelia (Monger) Sheets, both natives of Germany. At the time of her birth her father was a regular soldier in the United States Army, stationed near San Antonio, Texas, guarding the frontier against Indian troubles. When the War of the Rebellion broke out in 1861 he was at San Antonio, and was offered the privilege of remaining with the Confederate forces or going north. He chose the northern side, and going to Shelby County, Ohio, enlisted with an Ohio regiment and was all through the Civil war. He died in Shelby County October 1, 1882, and his widow passed away in 1889 at the home of her daughter in Berne. Mrs. Gottschalk's mother was a Catholic. Mrs. Gottschalk was a devoted wife and mother and was the type of woman whose presence is greatly missed in any community. She died at Berne January 11, 1910. Mr. Gottschalk has long been prominent in the Evangelical Association, has been an official member of his church, class leader and superintendent of the Sunday school, and otherwise interested in every moral and religious influence in his home community.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottschalk had five children. The second, Oliver E., died May 15, 1883, when about four and a half years of age. The oldest, Cora B., is a graduate of the State Normal School at Terre Haute, was a successful teacher in her home county for several years, also taught at Anderson, and is now the wife of Hon. Benjamin F. Welty. Mr. Welty is a graduate of the Law School of Michigan University and is now a special attorney at Lima, Ohio, and congressman from the Fourth Ohio District. Mr. and Mrs. Welty have one daughter, Gene G. Thurman A. Gottschalk, the oldest son, was educated in the Berne High School, in an institution of higher education at Naperville, Illinois, and also in Indiana University. He lives near Berne and by his marriage to Nellie Simison has two children, John R. and Elizabeth L., both now in school. Wilda M. is a graduate of the Blaker School of Indianapolis and is now the wife of E. K. Shally of Berne. They have two children, Marcelle G. and Andrew D. The youngest of the children is True Palmer, who graduated from the Berne High School in 1912, later from Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio, and had entered upon a successful career as a teacher when he resigned to enlist in the National Army. He is now in the Medical Corps of the Nineteenth Field Artillery, located at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Andrew Gottschalk is a past chancellor of Berne Lodge of Knights of Pythias, and represented his district in the Grand Lodge at

Indianapolis in 1900. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias.

ALBERT F. ADAMS is one of the progressive, loyal, public spirited and successful citizens whose lives largely have been spent in the agricultural enterprise of Jefferson Township, Adams County. The Adams farm is in section 16 of that township.

Mr. Adams was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, August 31, 1849, a son of Levi and Catherine (Wiserock) Adams, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany. They married in Columbiana County, Ohio, and some years later moved to Jay County, Indiana, locating on a farm where they spent the rest of their days. Of the seven children, five are still living: Ann, wife of William Shull; William, who lives in Jay City; Albert F.; Martha; James of Bryant, Indiana.

Albert F. Adams spent his boyhood chiefly in Jay County, Indiana. He lived at home until 1877, when he married Barbara Ryan, who was born in Jefferson Township of Adams County February 13, 1857, and grew up on the farm which her son now owns. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have one child, Charles F., who married Mary E. Debolt.

The family are members and active supporters of the Methodist Church in their community, and Mr. Albert Adams has been a contributing and sustaining member of the congregation.

Mr. Adams in his own right owns 160 acres of land, while his wife has forty acres. He is a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants bank at Geneva, the People's Bank at Berne, in the People's Loan and Trust Company at Decatur, and thus he is not only a landholder, but has good financial connections all over the county. He is also interested in the Adams County Fair and is a member of the Township Advisory Board. Politically Mr. Adams is a republican.

EARL K. SHALLEY is postmaster of the Village of Berne, having received his appointment from President Wilson June 2, 1916. He has spent most of his life in that community and was formerly active in business affairs.

Berne has one of the larger postoffices of Adams County. The postoffice was first established there in 1872, was made a money order office in July, 1883, and has been the center for several diverging routes of rural service since 1903. One of the earlier postmasters was Andrew Gottschalk, father-in-law of Mr. Shalley, the present postmaster. Mr. Shalley has two very capable assistants in J. M. Rose and Ruth Bockman. The four rural carriers from the office are V. Schidler, D. J. Springer, S. F. Lehman and L. E. Neaderhouser. These carriers cover a total distance of 115 miles and all of them use Ford cars. They were the first rural carriers in the county to take up this modern method of country road travel and they have found automobiles very efficient in doing the work and these four men now perform the service formerly done by five carriers and in less time. The predecessor of Mr. Shalley in the office of postmaster was Mrs. Anna Egler, who served a term of four years. The Berne postoffice handles a much larger volume of mail than the population of the village would indicate. This is due to the fact that many of the activities of the Mennonite Church are concentrated here, and thirteen papers are published and begin their journeys through the Berne postoffice. With a normal rate of increase it is expected that Berne will have a second class office early in 1920.

Earl K. Shalley was born at Bluffton, Indiana, April 10, 1884, and was a small child when his parents removed to Berne, where he was reared and educated and where he finished the course of the local high

school. In early manhood he engaged in business as secretary of the Rapid Remedy Company of Berne, manufacturers of stock remedies. By profession Mr. Shalley is a photographer and in that line is regarded as a specialist, one of the best known men in the art in Indiana. He learned photography at Berne and won medals and honorable mention for some of his specialty work in photography. Five years before giving up the profession he was elected secretary of the Indiana State Photographers' Association and was also prominent in the National Association for some years.

He is a son of D. L. and Carrie (Krakner) Shalley. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania German ancestry. Some of the family in colonial times located on an island in Chesapeake Bay known to this day as Shalley Island. D. L. Shalley when a young man moved to Wells County, Indiana, where he met and married Miss Krakner, who is a native of Michigan and of French ancestry. D. L. Shalley learned the milling trade in Bluffton and after moving to Berne had charge of the old Hoosier Mills until they were burned many years ago. The output of the old Hoosier Mills was of exceptionally fine quality, and the flour and other products were ground through stone burrs. After leaving the milling trade he was a baker at Berne for some years, and finally removed to Pandora, Ohio, where he engaged in the restaurant business. He and his wife are still living there and still enjoy the best of health. They are members of the Reformed Church and in politics he is a democrat. Earl K. Shalley is the oldest of three children, the other two being Harry and Opal. Harry is associated with his father at Pandora, Ohio, and by his marriage to Rossetta Rumple has two children, Sherman and Alma. Opal, who was reared and educated at Berne, is the wife of Henry B. Egley of Fort Wayne. Their two children, Marjorie and Gannett, are both in school.

Mr. Earl Shalley married at Berne Miss Wilda Gottschalk, daughter of Andrew Gottschalk, one of the most prominent men of Adams County, elsewhere referred to. Mrs. Shalley was born at Berne in 1885, is a graduate of the local high school, and took a special course in the Blaker Kindergarten School at Indianapolis, after which for some years she was a successful and popular teacher, having charge of a private school at Berne and later was one of the teachers in Fort Wayne. Mr. and Mrs. Shalley have two children, Marcella G. and Andrew D., the former a pupil in the public schools. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shalley are active in the Evangelical Association. They are young people known as leaders in the town both socially and in public affairs. Mr. Shalley is an active democrat, and is a past grand chancellor of Berne Lodge No. 398, Knights of Pythias.

Eli A. Luginbill. One of the factors in the business prosperity of the flourishing town of Berne is Mr. Luginbill, now manager, secretary and treasurer of the Berne Grain & Hay Company. This has been his chief business connection for the past eight or nine years, and prior to that he was an active and energetic clerk and merchant in the hardware lines. He has combined energy with good judgment and has been largely responsible for the success and prosperity of his present company.

This business was incorporated in 1901, and the head of the company is now D. C. Springer, president. With the rapid growth and development of the business at Berne a similar enterprise has been established at Geneva in Adams County, which is run and operated by the same board of directors. At Berne the company has ample facilities for the storage and marketing of many carloads of grain every year, and much of the field produce raised in and around this town finds its outlet to

market through this company. They also handle large quantities of field seed, hay, straw, flour, salt, coal, and other kindred supplies.

Mr. Luginbill was elected secretary and treasurer of the company on May 15, 1909. During the preceding fourteen years he had been associated with the Bumgardner Brothers & Company, hardware merchants at Berne. He started with that firm in 1895, and finally disposed of his interests a short time before taking over his present responsibilities. Mr. Luginbill has been a resident of Berne since 1891 and represents one of the pioneer families of that old Swiss and Mennonite community. However, he was born in Hickory County, Missouri, December 20, 1868, during a brief residence of his parents in that section.

Mr. Luginbill married at Berne Ella G. Neuenschwander. She was born at Berne, daughter of Christian A. Neuenschwander. This family also have had a prominent part in the various businesses and civic activities of Berne, and further mention of them will be found on other pages. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Luginbill: Paul, Anna, Arthur and Carl, all now attending the local schools. Politically Mr. Luginbill is independent.

PHILIP SCHUG. No name in Adams County represents more of the substantial attributes of the honorable and fair dealing spirit in business than that of Schug. At the Town of Berne for more than twenty-two years Philip Schug has been in general insurance business and has built up a clientele that makes his agency one of the most important in this section of the state. The business is now conducted as Philip Schug & Son. Their offices are in the People's State Bank Building. Philip Schug entered the insurance field at Berne in 1896 for fifteen years previous to this being engaged in several other businesses in the city and has kept his business growing every successive year. He handles all classes of insurance, both life and fire, indemnity, bonding, tornado, and other lines of risk, and represents some of the oldest standard insurance companies. His office writes about $150,000 worth of life insurance every year, and the other departments are correspondingly prosperous.

Philip Schug has spent most of his life in Adams County but was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, May 31, 1861. He was two years of age when his parents, Carl and Catherine (Rausch) Schug came to Adams County and settled in French Township. His parents were born in one of the Rhine provinces of Germany and were German Reform people. Carl Schug came to this country when a young man with his brothers, while his wife was brought over by her parents. She was exceptionally well educated for a young woman in her time in Germany, and her family were of the higher class being closely related to titled nobility. Both families made the trip in the sailing vessels which crossed the Atlantic in early days and six or seven weeks was consumed in such a voyage. The families located in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where Carl Schug and wife met and later were married. While they lived in that county the following children were born: William, Henry, Charles, Julius and Philip. In the month of April, 1863, they arrived in French Township of Adams County where Carl Schug acquired 160 acres of land. He was an industrious and skillful farmer and had many improvements under way before his death, which occurred March 8, 1867, at the age of forty years. His widow survived him many years and passed away December 24, 1902, being laid to rest on Christmas Day. They were always members of the German Reform Church and the father was a democrat in politics. Of their family six sons and one daughter are still living, all of them married, and all residents of Adams County except the daughter who lives in Missouri.

Philip Schug married in Adams County Anna A. Striker. She was born in Ashland County, Ohio, in April, 1864, and was a young child when her parents Andrew and Eliza Striker came to Monroe Township of Adams County. Her father was a native of Germany and her mother of Pennsylvania. The Strikers on coming to Adams County located on a farm, where the parents lived for many years. They finally retired to Berne, where the father died a number of years ago. Mrs. Schug's mother is still living at the age of eighty-five.

Mr. and Mrs. Schug became the parents of four children. Otto F., the oldest, finished his education in a business school in North Dakota, and while in that state he located a claim of 160 acres. He was busy in his preparations for developing this farm when he was suddenly killed, being twenty-three years of age. He was driving a team across a railroad track when struck by a fast train, both the horses and himself being instantly killed. He was brought back to his native county and buried at Berne. Jesse A., the second son, was like the other children well educated in the local schools at Berne, and is now a stucco worker living in his native village. He married Byrdie Hoffman of Hartford City, Indiana, and they have two children, Philip A. and Henry C. The only daughter is Cora P., wife of Chester V. Millikin. They live in Wells County, and both are highly educated young people. Mrs. Millikin was for seven years a teacher at Berne.

The youngest son is Everett J., the business associate and partner of his father, and a young man of great resourcefulness and business enterprise. He was born November 11, 1896, is a graduate of the grammar and high schools of Berne, and finished his course in high school with the class of 1915. He was editor of the school paper while in school and was also president of his class, and of various literary organizations of the school. For a number of years he was associated with his father in the insurance business, learned it in every detail, and has shown unusual ability in pushing insurance work. In January, 1917, he was made a partner under the name of Philip Schug & Son. They have well arranged and well equipped offices, and the firm undoubtedly handles as much insurance as any other in Adams County. Everett Schug married Miss Esther Acton of Bluffton, Indiana, where she was reared and educated. They were married in October, 1916, and have one daughter, Anna Louise.

Most of the Philip Schug family are members of the Evangelical Association at the Trinity Evangelical Church in Berne. Philip Schug is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, at the local Castle Hall Chapter No. 398.

Francis M. Cottrell is the only lawyer in practice at Berne, and by reason of almost half a century's experience in the law in this county is one of the oldest members of the local bar and one of the oldest attorneys in the state.

Mr. Cottrell was born in Union County, Ohio, January 21, 1846. His grandfather Robert Cottrell was born in Ireland, probably of Protestant ancestry. When a young man he came to the United States and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He went through the war, participated in numerous engagements, but came out unhurt, and soon afterward located in Ohio, where he married and where he spent an active career as a farmer until his death. He was quite an old man when he died, and had reared a numerous family. It was through his admiration for Gen. Francis Marion, the great leader of the American Revolution, that the Berne lawyer was given his christian name.

The parents of Francis M. Cottrell were Richard and Cecilia Cottrell.

His father was born in Union County, Ohio, and lived a brief career as a farmer in that state, where he died in 1850 at the age of thirty-two. Richard Cottrell married Mrs. Cecelia (Hall) Peele, a native of Adams County, Ohio. By her first marriage she had three children, one of whom, William, is now a farmer at Long Lake, Michigan. Mrs. Cecelia Cottrell died in Wabash Township of Adams County, Indiana, at the age of seventy-three. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Francis M. Cottrell is the oldest of three children. His brother Burgoyne was twice married and at his death left four children. The sister Elizabeth died after her marriage to Daniel W. Britt and was the mother of two sons and one daughter.

In 1863, at the age of seventeen, Francis M. Cottrell enlisted in the Tenth Ohio Regiment of Cavalry. He saw much of the strenuous fighting and campaigning in which the cavalry forces were engaged. His chief commander was General Kilpatrick, and he was in Sherman's famous campaign from Atlanta to the sea and thence up through the Carolinas, participating at Jonesboro, Goldsboro, Charleston and Augusta until the surrender of Johnston's army and the virtual close of the war. With all his exposure and hardships Mr. Cottrell went through the war unscathed and was mustered out in July, 1865, as a private.

After the war he returned home to Franklin County, Ohio, where he worked on a farm. In 1867 he came to Adams County, Indiana, and engaged in farming in Wabash Township. In 1880 he traded his farm for a farm in Jefferson Township. While there he began the study of law, continuing farming in the meantime until 1886 when he gave up farming and practiced law in 1903. He moved to Berne, being admitted to the bar at Decatur in that year. Most of the important law work originating in and around Berne has been committed to his charge, and he is not only one of the oldest but one of the most respected attorneys for his services and abilities. He is a member of the Adams County Bar Association.

Mr. Cottrell married in Ohio in 1867 Margaret Priest, who was born and reared and educated in her native state. To their marriage were born four children. Ida J. is the wife of Henry Zink of Anderson, Indiana, and the mother of a family. Anna married Alvin Vorhees and lives at Geneva, Indiana, their family consisting of four sons. Rosetta is the widow of B. Parr and lives east of Berne, the head of a household of ten children. Arthur Hall is a farmer at Knox, Indiana, and is married and has sons and daughters. For his second wife Mr. Cottrell married at Berne Mrs. Alice (Fleetwood) Farlow. By her first husband she has one son, Earl F., now a farmer in Adams County, and a bachelor. Mrs. Cottrell was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1859, and was seven years of age when she came to Adams County with her parents William and Hettie (Timmons) Fleetwood, who were also natives of Ohio. They died in Adams County, Indiana, her mother at the age of fifty-five. Her father passed away quite recently in May, 1917, and in the following month would have celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday. Mrs. Cottrell is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he has always followed the fortunes of the republican party, and for eight years served as justice of the peace in Jefferson Township.

Jacob Schueler. Among the native born citizens of Adams County who aided in every possible way its growth and development, stands Jacob Schueler, whose birth occurred in Preble Township, November 4, 1860, on the farm of his father, George Schueler.

George Schueler was born in Ohio, of German ancestry. He became familiar with agricultural pursuits as a boy, and in early manhood

made his way to Adams County, Indiana. Settling in Preble Township, he bought 160 acres of land, from the Hoffman heirs. He cleared the larger part of it, and was there successfully engaged in general farming until his death. His wife, Mary Furmann, was born in Germany, and as a young girl came with her parents to Adams County, Indiana, where she grew to womanhood, and was married. She was the mother of eleven children. The seven by her first husband, Peter Hoffman, being Daniel, Henry, Martin, Christian, Elizabeth, Sophia, and Susanna Hoffman, and the four by her second husband, Fred, Jacob, Mary, and John Schueler. George Schueler died in February, 1893, and his wife in June, 1905. Both parents were members of the German Lutheran Church.

As a boy Jacob Schueler acquired a good education in the parochial and public schools, and on the home farm obtained a practical knowledge of agriculture. He subsequently purchased, in Preble Township, a portion of his father's estate, and after his mother's death he bought the rest from the Schueler and Hoffman heirs. He has since been pleasantly and profitably engaged in general farming, managing his property with ability and success.

Mr. Schueler married, in April, 1887, Katherine, daughter of Henry Smith, who reared two other daughters and one son, Louisa, Christina and John. Six children have made their advent into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schueler, namely: Otto, who married Freeda Prange of Wells County, Indiana; Clara, wife of Adolph Biebrich, of Root Township; Adolph; Hermann; George; and Robert. Loyal to the religious faith of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Schueler are valued members of the German Lutheran Church.

Nathan B. Shepherd is one of the oldest business men of Geneva, where he is manager of the Geneva Elevator Company. He is a native of Adams County and for forty years has been more or less actively identified with the hay and grain trade.

The settlement of the Shepherd family in Adams County was almost coincident with the period of the earliest pioneers of this section. The Shepherds are an old Virginia family. Mr. Shepherd's grandparents were William and Olivia P. (Emery) Shepherd, both natives of Virginia, the former born August 18, 1788, and the latter August 19, 1788. They married in Virginia, July 14, 1809, and became the parents of eight children. From Virginia they sought homes in the Northwest country, were pioneers in Franklin County, Ohio, and about 1838 came to Northeastern Indiana and located in a wilderness home in section 36 of Wabash Township. William Shepherd was a man of substantial means and enterprise and accumulated here some 1,200 or 1,400 acres of land. He was a prosperous business man and a leading citizen in the community, and died in this county June 17, 1862. His wife passed away April 25, 1856. William Shepherd also had a patriotic record, having served his country in the War of 1812, and it was during that war that he gained his first knowledge of the country north of the River Ohio. He served at the siege of Fort Meigs and at the siege of Toledo.

The father of the Geneva business man was Edward Shepherd, who was born in Franklin County, Ohio, July 5, 1826, and died in Adams County December 14, 1866. He was about twelve years of age when he came to Adams County, and he grew up on a farm and followed agriculture in Wabash Township during his active years. He married in that township April 23, 1847, Lucy A. Buckingham. She was born in Maryland May 25, 1826, and survived her husband many years. Her

parents, Nathan and Frissell (Michael) Buckingham, were also natives of Maryland, moved from there to Fairfield County, Ohio, and seven years later went to Jay County, Indiana, where Nathan Buckingham died June 6, 1852, and his wife in 1868. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Edward Shepherd and wife were also active Methodists. They became the parents of nine children: William E., born March 7, 1849; Margaret E., born December 29, 1850; Nathan B.; Martha A., born August 17, 1854; Pyreny J., born March 17, 1856, and died September 2, 1881; Alfred A., born January 10, 1858, died November 7, 1877; John H., born August 5, 1860, died November 11, 1866; Morton G., born February 3, 1863; and Emma, born September 18, 1865, died January 17, 1878. Of this family only three are living today, Nathan, Morton, of Portland, Indiana, and Martha, widow of Jacob Butcher.

Nathan B. Shepherd was born on his father's farm in Wabash Township June 3, 1852, and as a boy his growing strength was more and more taxed to help in the clearing and improvement of the farm. He was only fourteen years of age when his father died, and after that practically supported himself. His education was confined to the advantages of the local schools, and in 1871, at the age of nineteen, he began working in a stave factory at Bluffton. He followed different occupations for some years, and in 1877 went to work for the Geneva Hay & Grain firm of S. W. Hale & Brother. That business he has given practically forty years of his energies and experience. In 1902 he engaged in business for himself, and for a number of years has been manager of the Geneva Elevator Company.

Mr. Shepherd has also participated generously in local affairs, and from 1898 to 1902 was postmaster of Geneva. He is a republican, as was his father before him. He has served as noble grand of Geneva Lodge No. 634, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, has sat in the Grand Lodge, and is a member of Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

On October 26, 1879, Mr. Shepherd married Miss Sarah E. Connor, who was born in Jay County, Indiana, June 15, 1856, daughter of William and Catherine (Farbee) Connor, natives of Ohio and early settlers in Jay County. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd have four sons: Earl, a graduate of the Geneva High School and of Purdue University in the civil engineering course; William E., a graduate of the Geneva High School; Charles and Clarence, who likewise have completed the work of the local high school.

Josephus Martin, the leading coal merchant at Geneva, has made a creditable record of business enterprise and is adding to the many associations which the name Martin has with the business and pioneer life of Adams County.

He was named for his grandfather, Josephus Martin, one of the early settlers of Hartford Township, where the family was established fully seventy years ago. Josephus Martin was a native of Virginia, born in Hampshire County September 30, 1803. The family had lived in Virginia for several generations, the grandfather of Josephus having located there about the time of the Revolution. Josephus Martin when a small boy went with his parents to Warren County, Ohio, and in that state he grew to manhood. On March 25, 1830, he married Catherine Summerfelt, who was born in New Jersey, July 7, 1814. She died January 19, 1844, and on January 27, 1845, Josephus married Elizabeth Deffenbaugh, whose father, John Deffenbaugh, became well known in Adams County, Indiana. By his first marriage Josephus Mar-

tin had six children, and was the father of eleven by his second wife. Grandfather Josephus Martin died in 1884.

John A. Martin, father of the Geneva business man, was born in Adams County, in Hartford Township, April 30, 1849, a son of Josephus and Elizabeth (Deffenbaugh) Martin. He grew up on a farm, and though his early advantages were confined to the district schools he acquired a good education. At the age of eighteen he went to work for himself, and on February 17, 1874, he married Elizabeth Baker. She was born in Clear Creek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, August 4, 1848, daughter of Abraham S. Baker, who became an early settler in Wells County, Indiana, moving there when his daughter Elizabeth was only four years of age. John A. Martin after his marriage engaged in farming and stock raising until January 28, 1881, when he removed to Geneva and became associated with W. W. Roberts in the general merchandise business. His activities as a merchant were brief, being interrupted by his death on August 28, 1885. His widow still survives him and lives at Geneva. She was the mother of four children, Effie A., Luther, Minnie A. and Josephus. Effie married Frank Fiter, of Geneva, and she is now proprietor of a dry goods store in that town. Luther is a farmer in Hartford Township. Minnie A. is deceased.

Josephus Martin was born in Hartford Township of Adams County June 17, 1881, and has spent practically all his life at Geneva. He attended the public schools there, and in 1901 graduated from the Vorhees Business College at Indianapolis. Choosing a business career, he became bookkeeper for the firm of Hardison & Stewart at Geneva, and was connected with that business for eleven years. In August, 1912, he bought a half interest in the retail coal firm from A. P. Hardison and thus established the firm of Hardison & Martin, who today do most of the coal business in and around Geneva.

Mr. Martin married, January 9, 1904, Miss Ruby L. Cooper, who was born at Mechanicsburg, Indiana, and received most of her education in the common schools at Pennville in this state. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have two children, John E., born in January, 1905, and Georgia M., born in August, 1909. Mr. Martin is a member and has filled various chairs in Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and in politics is a republican.

JOHN P. SHOEMAKER. A life of steadfast purpose and of effective fulfillment has been that of John P. Shoemaker, a retired farmer now living at Geneva. Mr. Shoemaker has been known to the people of Adams County as a good citizen and one whose efforts have been accompanied by definite results throughout the period of his manhood.

Mr. Shoemaker is a native of Hartford Township, Adams County, where he was born June 1, 1852, son of Jacob M. and Mary (Pontius) Shoemaker. His parents were both natives of Pickaway County, Ohio. They were early settlers in Hartford Township of Adams County, the old home being three miles west of Geneva. Mary Shoemaker died on that farm and the father subsequently moved to Geneva and married again. By his first wife there were four children: John P., Daniel P., Amos P., and Lydia, wife of John Heller, all of Hartford Township.

John P. Shoemaker grew to manhood on the old farm three miles west of Geneva and his early advantages were those of the district schools. He lived at home until the age of twenty-one, and a little later he bravely assumed the responsibilities of married life and provision for a home of his own.

January 17, 1875, he married Sarah E. Taylor, who was born in Nottingham Township of Wells County, Indiana, November 12, 1853.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker moved to a farm in Jay County, Indiana, where they lived as renters for seven years. Returning to Hartford Township Mr. Shoemaker bought eighty acres and this was the nucleus of his gradually increasing estate which now comprises 239½ acres of some of the best land in that township. Mr. Shoemaker though he has lived in Geneva since 1912 still gives much of his time to the active supervision of his farm lands.

He and his wife have six children: W. O. Shoemaker, a farmer in Hartford Township; Clifton, a farmer in Jay County, Indiana; Alva, a farmer in Hartford Township; S. O. Shoemaker, of Hartford Township; Harold and Ruth B. Shoemaker.

Charles Reicheldeffer of Geneva is a man of experience and achievement out of the ordinary. More than any other local citizen he is credited with the primary work which brought about the building of the B. G. and C. traction line from Bluffton to Geneva, and in many ways he has unselfishly promoted the good and the welfare of this section of the state.

His present substantial position in Adams County takes on a new significance when the conditions and environment of his early life are understood. Mr. Reicheldeffer never had a boyhood and there was never a time within his recollection when he did not stand face to face with the serious responsibilities and the hard toil required to keep him out of the depths of poverty.

He was born in Hartford Township of Adams County April 4, 1858, a son of Charles and Sophia (Pontius) Reicheldeffer. Both parents were natives of Ohio, his father of Pickaway County. The parents immediately after their marriage came to Adams County, locating in Hartford Township, where Charles senior followed the trade of blacksmith. He was the first blacksmith in that township. It was some weeks before the birth of Charles Reicheldeffer that his father met his death when killed by a falling tree in 1858. That was the circumstance which more than anything else influenced the early destiny of Mr. Reicheldeffer. His widowed mother was left with three small children, and she did her best to bring them up during the fourteen years of her widowhood.

Charles Reicheldeffer never had any schooling and had to pick up his knowledge largely through experience and observation. In those early years when ordinarily he would have been in school and under the shelter of home he was working out for wages of 10 cents a day. At one time he hired out to a man and the employment was so distasteful that he ran away. His mother put him in the service of John Glendening, an Adams County farmer, with whom he remained three years at $5 a month. He also spent a year with Alexander Bolds, and finally took employment with J. W. Watson, to whom he gave the best of his energies for five years, and while there he met his wife, who was also an employe of the Watson home.

Mr. Reicheldeffer early displayed the elements of character and industry which cause men to place confidence in him and among others his uncle showed a willingness to back him up in independent enterprise, and with that support he went in debt for a tract of land where he lived and farmed for seven years.

Some of the most interesting of his experiences were in Western Kansas, during the pioneer epoch. Having disposed of his holdings in Adams County, he went to Gray County, Kansas, and remained in that frontier district for eleven years. His name belongs prominently with the history of the county and especially with the county seat of Ingalls, which he helped promote and build. Altogether his Kansas experience

was not fruitful of the material elements of success. He worked at different things, and finally was induced to put his money in a coal business at Ingalls. His lack of early education here showed itself, and he went into the coal business without the slightest knowledge of how to figure the value of a ton. He had to learn from other people, and as he was not unwilling to accept advice and assistance he made progress and eventually became an expert in mercantile calculations and transactions. From the coal business he engaged in the lumber business at Ingalls, and in the course of time was a general merchant, handling coal, lumber, groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, drugs and hardware. At one time he had a partner in this business but finally bought him out and was sole proprietor. His prospects were bright until the prevailing hot winds of Western Kansas seared and desolated the entire country and his business suffered along with the farms and home making attempts of the other settlers.

In the meantime he had acquired forty acres of land in Adams County, Indiana, and from Kansas he returned to take possession of this and has since busied himself with farming and with the various other interests which he has acquired in the county. He has done much for the Geneva community in addition to securing the construction of the interurban line. Mr. Reicheldeffer was one of the organizers of Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being a charter member. In politics he is a republican and his wife is a member of the Eastern Star. Mr. and Mrs. Reicheldeffer have four children: W. H., who is connected with the Great Northern Railway at Great Falls, Montana; Luella, a resident of Chicago; Effie, deceased; and Ernest, who lives at home.

Benjamin O. Jones is proprietor of the lumber yards at Geneva, and is one of the energetic and constructive factors in business affairs of Adams County. While he has lived in this county only a few years Mr. Jones represents a family that were pioneers here.

Mr. Jones was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, March 11, 1874, a son of Benjamin and Mary (Dailey) Jones. Benjamin Jones, a native of Medina County, Ohio, was brought to Adams County, Indiana, in 1846, when nine years of age. The Jones family located east of Decatur, in the midst of the heavy timber, and two years after they came here the father died and after that the support of the rest of the family devolved largely upon the youthful shoulders of young Benjamin. He worked hard, spending the winter months in the woods clearing the land for cultivation and was the mainstay of the family until he was twenty-four years of age. At that time he was called to the service of his country, enlisting in Company A of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. After three years he veteranized, and altogether was in the army four years and four months, until the close of hostilities. He thus proved faithful to those primary interests which revolve around the family and its integrity and also to that patriotism which makes men give up their all and sacrifice everything for their country. At the end of the war he returned to Adams County and married Mary Dailey. Mary Dailey was born in Adams County, Indiana, in 1846, a daughter of James and Mary Dailey. She is still living in Van Wert County, Ohio, where they settled soon after their marriage, and where Benjamin Jones, Sr., died in 1903. He was a republican and an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. One interesting relationship is that Benjamin Jones, Sr., had a grandmother on his father's side who was a niece of Benedict Arnold, whose name figures ingloriously in the annals of the American Revolution. Benjamin Jones and wife had thirteen

children, all living except one: Emma, Eva D., Dailey, Esaies, Benjamin O., James, who died in infancy, Charles J., Harry O., Mary A., Harland H., Clyde C., Fred C. and Clara A.

Benjamin O. Jones spent his early life on his father's farm in Van Wert County, Ohio. He attended the district schools and the high school at Wren in that county, and he found ample employment for his energies at home until 1906. In that year, with the modest capital of $300, he started South and for three years was engaged in the lumber business. He bought a half section of timber land in Alabama. On returning North he started a lumber yard at Cayuga, Indiana, but after two years and eight months he came to Geneva in December, 1911, and bought his present business. His trade has grown rapidly and he now has one of the substantial concerns that make up the business prosperity of Geneva. Mr. Jones is also a stockholder in the Bank of Wren, Ohio.

In September, 1908, he married Esther A. Morgan, of Van Wert, Ohio. They had three children, Dailey M. and Henry J., still in the home circle, and Mary A., who died January 10, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Geneva and he is one of the church trustees. Politically he is a republican.

Daniel Pontius. Having lived in Adams County practically all his life, a period of sixty-five years, Daniel Pontius has not failed to uphold the standards of conduct and thrifty enterprise which have always been associated with the Pontius family record here, and has in fact been a man of substance and influence in his community throughout the greater part of his life. Mr. Pontius is now retired, living in Geneva and among other interests has been a director of the Bank of Geneva since it was organized. The officers of the Bank of Geneva are Charles Porter, president; A. G. Briggs, vice president, and John Miller, cashier. Mr. Pontius is also a stockholder in the Bank of Linn Grove. He still owns the old farm of eighty acres and has a good town home at Geneva.

The older generation of the Pontius family lived in Pennsylvania. The great-grandfather of Daniel was named John. The grandparents were John and Julia A. (Critz) Pontius, both natives of Ohio. John Pontius came from Pickaway County, Ohio, to Adams County, Indiana, in 1854, settling in Hartford Township on section 25. John Pontius was a man of considerable means for those days and he bought some 640 acres of land, mostly in Hartford Township. He and his wife had fifteen children, and it was probably for the purpose of providing for their needs that he acquired such extensive holdings of Adams County real estate. Many of the children located here and from them have come the various branches of the Pontius family who are so well known in this section of Indiana. Grandfather John Pontius and his wife died at their old home in Hartford Township within the same month, he on the last day and she on the first day of March, 1859. They were then fifty-four and fifty-three years of age, respectively.

George Pontius, a son of John and Julia Pontius and father of Daniel Pontius, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, February 23, 1827, and was the first of his father's family to locate in Hartford Township. He grew up in a time when schools were rather neglected and he had but a limited education, though by study at home he acquired much knowledge that fitted him for all the duties and responsibilities of life. On May 13, 1850, George Pontius married Miss Emily Shoemaker, and soon after their marriage they came from Ohio to Adams County, Indiana, and settled on land given him by his father, the northwest quarter of section 26 in Hartford Township. This quarter section was at that

time without a single improvement and had a heavy growth of timber. The first house constructed by George Pontius was made of hewed logs, 18 by 28 feet, and there he lived until 1871 when this humble structure was replaced by a large and commodious residence of brick, costing $4,000, and at that time regarded as one of the finest homes in the township. His general improvements and farm facilities were equally as good as his home, and all of it reflected the management of a thoroughly progressive farmer. He built a large barn only two years after completing his home. George Pontius provided liberally for his children. When he first came to Adams County he had accepted wages of 50 cents a day to take part in chopping wood and clearing land. It is a grateful fact to record that his many later years were crowded with comforts and with the esteem and affection of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a leading democrat, and in 1886 was elected county commissioner of Adams County. He and his wife were leading members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The wife of George Pontius, Emily Shoemaker, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 12, 1832, daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Marks) Shoemaker, the latter dying a few days after the birth of her daughter, Emily. Daniel Shoemaker afterwards married Elizabeth Baker, who died in September, 1885. Daniel Shoemaker removed to Indiana with his family about 1855, first locating in Hartford Township of Adams County and three years later at Newville or Vera Cruz in Wells County, where he owned a farm, sawmill and grist mill, and combined the operation of mill and farm until his death in 1857.

George Pontius and wife were the parents of ten children: Mary Jane, Daniel, Sylvester, Clinton, Albert, Edward, Charles, Osaetta, George F. and John. Those still living are Daniel, Clinton, Albert, Charles, Osaetta and Frank.

Daniel Pontius was born in Hartford Township of Adams County November 26, 1852, just two years after his parents came to the county. The farm which was his birthplace and his grandfather's old home is owned by him and in that environment he grew up to the age of twenty-one, getting his education in the local public schools. On leaving home he rented a farm of his grandfather, and soon afterward on January 1, 1874, married Lucy Callahan. She was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, March 18, 1851, and came to Adams County, Indiana, at the age of seventeen. In February following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pontius settled on the farm which they still own and which they occupied and from whose bountiful acres they made a substantial living until 1912. Since then they have lived in Geneva.

Mr. and Mrs. Pontius have two sons. Homer is married and is a farmer on 100 acres of land. Vernon is also married and lives at Geneva. Mr. Pontius is a democrat in politics and is a citizen whose helpfulness and public spirit can always be depended upon.

E. C. Arnold. The solid character of the leading business houses of Geneva, Indiana, is well represented by the Farmers & Merchants State Bank, a financial institution ably financed and officered, that commands the confidence and enjoys the hearty support of the residents of Adams County. Since its organization in 1910, E. C. Arnold has been cashier, coming to this city with banking experience gained at another point.

E. C. Arnold was born in Pendleton County, Kentucky, October 3, 1882. He is of old Kentucky ancestry and his parents, Marson and Senora (Booher) Arnold, are among the most highly respected residents of Covington, Kentucky, at the present time. They are members of the Baptist Church.

The first nineteen years of E. C. Arnold's life were passed in his native county and during that time he secured a public school education, completing his high school course at Falmouth. In preparation for a business career, he then went to Covington and entered a commercial school, from which he was subsequently graduated. Before entering upon what he has made his life work, he became a school teacher and is able to look back over his work in that profession, covering a year and a half, with considerable satisfaction, as he was quite successful and during that time made many warm friends whose interest in him continues to this day. Mr. Arnold then became connected with a banking institution at Morgan, Kentucky, and continued there until 1909. He came to Geneva, Indiana, in 1910. Here Mr. Arnold became one of the organizers of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank, of which he was made first cashier and has continued in that relation ever since. Courteous and obliging at all times, Mr. Arnold is a very popular bank official and his attitude has made many friends for the institution.

Mr. Arnold was married in 1909, to Miss Martha Howe, and they have one son, Charles, who was born in 1911. Mr. Arnold was reared in the Baptist Church and still maintains his interest in this religious organization and gives generous support to its many benevolent agencies. In politics he has always been identified with the democratic party and entirely from principle, because he has no political ambition for himself. In fraternal life he is an active Mason, belonging to Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Geneva, of which he is present master, and to the chapter at Decatur, Indiana. Mr. Arnold has large and valuable agricultural interests and in Steuben County alone owns 480 acres of rich farm land.

Andrew G. Briggs has been in business at Geneva for a longer period than any other individual merchant, and has been one of the stimulating factors in the commercial and civic life of that community. Much of his time and effort have been devoted to banking. He organized the Bank of Geneva, was its president eighteen years and vice president three years.

He represents an old and patriotic American family. His great-grandfather fought as a soldier in the Revolutionary war for independence and was also in the War of 1812. The grandfather, Andrew Briggs, was born in Maryland in 1786, and at the age of seven years his parents removed to Muskingum County, Ohio. At one time Andrew Briggs was engaged in business as a merchant at Rockville, Ohio, but afterward removed to Hancock County of that state, where he was a practical farmer until his death in February, 1863, at the age of seventy-seven. He was twice married. His first wife, Ellen Linn, a native of Ohio, was the mother of two sons and two daughters. His second wife was Sarah Finley, also a native of Ohio, where she died in 1845, the mother of four sons and four daughters.

The late William H. H. Briggs, father of the Geneva banker, is well remembered as a useful citizen and working member of that community, where he died March 12, 1912. He was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, October 15, 1836, and while he had a farm rearing and training he began learning the carpenter's trade at the age of nineteen and made that his staple vocation throughout his active career. During his early manhood, on September 5, 1864, he enlisted in the Union army, but at the end of sixty days was discharged for disability. In 1871 he removed with his family to Adams County, Indiana, and for many years was one of the reliable carpenters and builders at Geneva. He was a member of John P. Porter Post No. 83, Grand Army of the

Republic. On April 20, 1859, he married Catherine Harmel. She was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, April 2, 1838, and died July 1, 1884. They had a family of five sons and one daughter, named Andrew G., Albertus T., William, Ellen, Charles J. and John E. Albertus became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

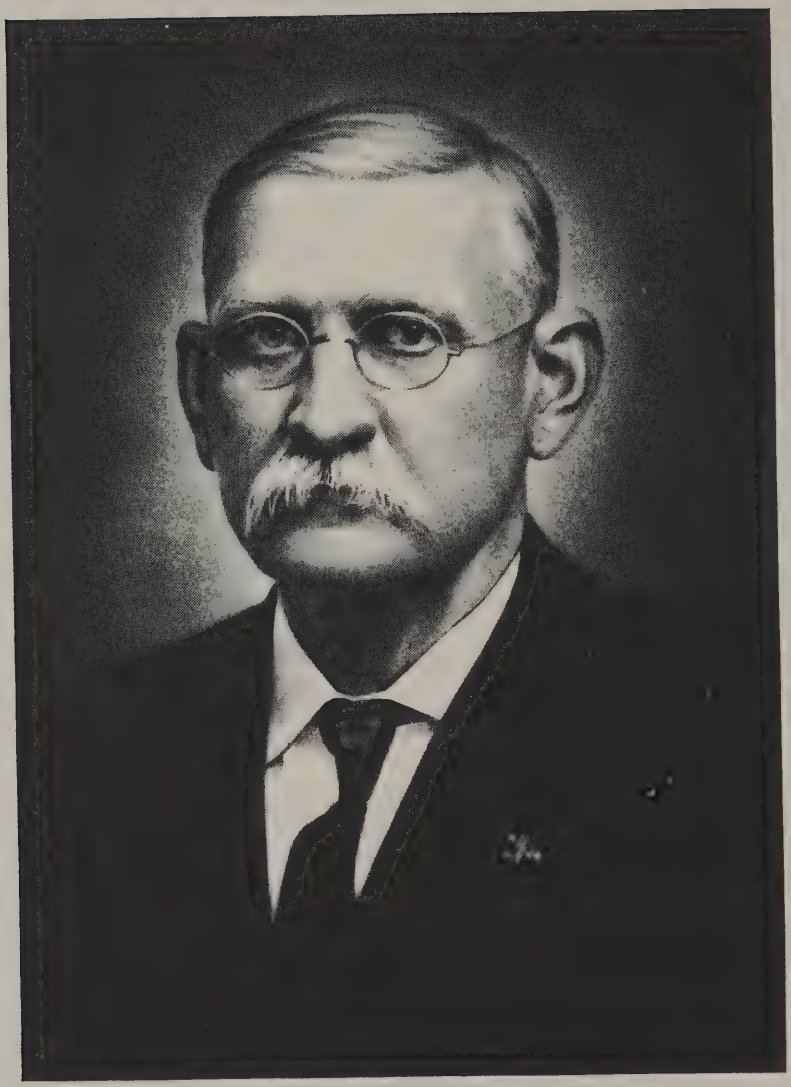
Andrew G. Briggs was born at his father's home in Hancock County, Ohio, January 31, 1860, and was eleven years of age when his parents moved to Wabash Township, Adams County, in the spring of 1871. Part of his common schooling was acquired here, and he also attended high school at Celina, Ohio. At the age of fifteen he went to work as a clerk in the dry goods store of E. C. Kern and afterward clerked in a general store at Celina, Ohio, until February, 1882. At that date he bought the stock of hardware at Geneva from George W. Donart, and since then for a period of thirty-five years has sold hardware to a large and substantial trade. Mr. Briggs began his business career with about $2,000 in capital and has been steadily improving his opportunities and extending his interests. Besides owning bank stock in Linn Grove and Geneva he is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Celina, Ohio, which was organized in 1900. He also owns a fine farm of 240 acres in Wabash Township and has some land interests in Arizona. He owns business property at Geneva, and was one of the men who advocated the building of the B. G. & C. Traction line and was vice president of the company. In politics Mr. Briggs is a democrat, and is affiliated with Geneva Lodge No. 634, Knights of Pythias.

November 27, 1883, he married Miss Margaret R. Day, who was born at Celina, Ohio, October 3, 1864, daughter of James and Fannie M. (Small) Day. Her father was born in Hancock County, Ohio, February 10, 1840, and her mother in Ashland County, Ohio, December 26, 1846. James Day was a prominent Ohio attorney and at one time filled the office of common pleas judge. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs have two sons, James D. and Richard A. James is a graduate of the high school of Celina, Ohio, is unmarried and is now assistant cashier of the Bank of Geneva. Richard is a graduate of the Geneva High School, spent two years at Purdue University, and is also employed by his father in the store.

Samuel H. Teeple. The business prosperity of the pleasant town of Geneva, Indiana, has been built up by such sound and reliable business men as Samuel H. Teeple, formerly postmaster, and an active and progressive citizen for many years.

Samuel H. Teeple was born in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, July 19, 1857. His parents were James B. and Mary (Smith) Teeple, the former of whom was born in Fayette County, Ohio, and was yet young when he came to Indiana. The latter was also born in Ohio and was brought to Indiana in infancy. They grew up in the same neighborhood and married and a family of nine children was born to them, the survivors in 1917 being the following: Isaac, who is vice president of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank at Geneva; Samuel H., who was a member of the first board of directors of the above bank; Sarah, who is the widow of Alfred Ayers, lives in Monroe Township, Adams County; and Catherine, who is the wife of John L. Case of Van Wert, Ohio.

The district schools in St. Mary's Township afforded Samuel H. Teeple and his brother and sisters their educational training. Their father was always interested in the schools as he was in other uplifting agencies, and brought up his children in the Christian Church. He followed farming as a vocation and also worked at the carpenter



DR. THOMAS MORRIS

trade and was a highly respected resident of St. Mary's Township all his mature life. He was a republican in his political views and at one time served in the office of township assessor.

Until he was thirty-five years old, Samuel H. Teeple confined his attention rather closely to farm pursuits. He came then to Geneva and for five years bought and shipped hay from this point, afterward being connected with other business lines and entering somewhat more actively into the political field, in which he has been a factor in the county since he was seventeen years old. For five years Mr. Teeple was interested in a sawmill and then turned his attention to merchandising and for five years more conducted a clothing and shoe business and then was appointed postmaster of Geneva, by former President Theodore Roosevelt. He served with complete efficiency in this office for four years. As an earnest citizen, Mr. Teeple has taken a deep interest in many worthy enterprises here and has given substantial support to many. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers & Merchants State Bank, and, as mentioned above, was one of the first board of directors.

Mr. Teeple was married in early manhood to Miss Cora A. McCollum, who died October 29, 1910, survived by two sons: Jesse F., who is a salesman for the Holland Shoe Company; and James M., who is in the dry cleaning and pressing business at Cambridge City, Indiana. Mr. Teeple was married second, in 1912, to Miss Ida May Case, who was born and reared in Van Wert County, Ohio.

In addition to some improved property at Geneva, Mr. Teeple owns an exceedingly fine farm of 125 acres and has interests in both Jefferson and Wabash counties. He is an active member in the United Brethren Church, being one of the first of his name to sever relations with the Christian Church body, but in both organizations he has been sincere and helpful and enjoys the esteem and confidence of every one.

George B. Morris, M. D. For nearly thirty-five years the name Morris has had an association with the medical profession in Wells County, and the service rendered by the late Dr. Thomas Morris and by his son Dr. George B. Morris has been of a quality that deserves every appreciation and tribute than can be paid to the hard working and conscientious physician.

The late Dr. Thomas Morris, who died April 17, 1917, was born on a farm in Bracken County, Kentucky, August 6, 1848, a son of John P. and Mary Ann (McClennahan) Morris. John P. Morris' maternal grandfather, Captain Philip Buckner, was born in England in 1747, came to America in early manhood, and married in 1772 Miss Daniels of Virginia. He gave his personal service and his means to the colonies during the Revolution and for supplies furnished to the Continental Army he received at the close of the war land warrants with which he selected lands in Kentucky and Ohio. As a pioneer in the then Far West he brought his family and negroes down the Ohio River on flatboats, and subsequently organized a large colony of families in Virginia to establish homes at Augusta in Bracken County. He was thus founder of that old Kentucky town. He erected the first dwelling on his land in 1797 and donated large tracts to the Town of Augusta and was the leading spirit in that community for many years. He was the first representative of the county in the State Legislature and helped frame the first constitution of the state. His death occurred in Bracken County October 24, 1820. It is said that in advanced years he retired to a place fourteen miles in the wilderness in order that he might follow without let or hindrance his favorite sport of hunting.

The paternal grandfather of Dr. Thomas Morris was Dickinson Morris, who married a daughter of Captain Buckner. Dickinson Morris was the first sheriff of Bracken County, had charge of the survey of the larger portion of the lands of that county and was a prominent farmer there. His oldest son B. S. Morris became a distinguished lawyer and removed to Chicago, where his name appears in all the chronicles of that city as the second mayor of the city and also as a judge of the Circuit Court. John P. Morris, father of Dr. Thomas Morris, was a Bracken County farmer for many years. He died in October, 1895, at the age of eighty-three, and his home had been continuously on one farm for sixty years. His wife, a native of Virginia and brought to Kentucky when a child, died at the old homestead August 5, 1868, at the age of fifty-two. Two of their sons became residents of Wells County, Dr. Thomas and his brother Samuel B.

The late Dr. Morris had as his early environment the old homestead in Bracken County, was educated in public schools, and in 1869, when about twenty-one years of age, came to Wells County, Indiana, to visit relatives. He was employed for about two years as a teacher in district schools and liked the country so well that he determined to become a permanent resident. He had studied medicine in Kentucky and continued his reading with his brother Dr. George P. Morris in Grant County, Indiana. In 1879 he entered Fort Wayne Medical College, graduated M. D. in 1881, and first practiced at Roll in Blackford County, Indiana, but in 1884 located at Mount Zion in Wells County, where for over thirty years he looked after a great volume of country practice and a growing accumulation of business interests. Dr. Thomas Morris did pioneer work in the medical profession, and rode and drove about the county long before the era of good roads, telephones or automobiles. He was prominent in the County Medical Society. He was equally prospered in his business affairs and became a large land owner in Wells County, some of his land having productive oil wells. He was a democrat in national affairs, served three years as postmaster of Mount Zion during the Cleveland administration, and was a charter member of Mount Zion Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and filled all the chairs in the local order and was also a member of the Grand Lodge. He and his wife were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On May 11, 1875, Dr. Thomas Morris married Miss Sarah A. Lee, who was born in Wells County, Indiana, and is still living there. Her parents were Jonathan R. and Susanah (Banter) Lee. Mrs. Morris was only eighteen years of age at the time of her marriage. She was the mother of four children. Two died in infancy; Oscar E., the older, is a practical farmer near Mount Zion, where he married Maud Huffman.

Dr. George B. Morris was born on his father's farm in Jackson Township of Wells County November 13, 1879. He grew up at Mount Zion, attended the public schools there, also the Central Normal School at Danville, Indiana, and for five years was a successful teacher in Wells County. He then entered the Indiana Medical College of Indianapolis from which he was graduated M. D. in 1906. Dr. Morris also had the advantages of special work in Rush Medical College at Chicago and for several months was in the Harvard University Medical Department at Boston. In 1906, the year he graduated, he began practice at Poneto and in 1912 removed to Petroleum, and enjoyed a large professional business both in the town and in the country, and with the aid of an automobile rendered a service to patients many miles away as quickly as his father in earlier times could have done in the case of a patient in the same village. Doctor Morris entered the National army May 1, 1918, with the rank of first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps and is

stationed at Camp Greenleaf, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, for instruction and here he is doing service for his country.

Dr. Morris married in 1900 Miss Rosa Wallace. She was born in Rock Creek Township, but was reared in Liberty Township of Wells County. They have three children: Maxwell Lillian is a graduate of the common schools and did two years' work in high school and is now the wife of Milo B. Linsey living near Geneva, Indiana, and has entered Depauw University. Fred P. is now a student in Petroleum High School, and Martha Rose is still in the grade schools.

Dr. and Mrs. Morris are members of the United Brethren Church and in politics he is a democrat. He is a member in good standing of the County and State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association.

Luther E. Carter, proprietor of the leading dry goods business at Geneva, is a young man but with an extensive experience in merchandising, and has been in business either as clerk or an independent merchant since early boyhood.

Mr. Carter was born in Randolph County, Indiana, October 1, 1882, a son of John W. and Carrie Elizabeth Carter, and a grandson of Elihu Carter. Elihu Carter was a native of Mercer County, Ohio, and on coming to Indiana located in Miami County at Peru, where he was prominent as a minister of the Quaker Church. John W. Carter spent most of his boyhood at Peru, Indiana, and from there removed to Randolph County, where he married and became a farmer, a very successful one. He is now living retired at Lynn. He has always been active in the Friends Church. He and his wife have three children, Fred E., a graduate of the Cleveland Bible School and now a minister of the Friends Church at Newberg, Oregon; Maude E. is the wife of Wayne Smock, a farmer near Lynn, Indiana; and Luther E.

Luther E. Carter's early recollections are chiefly of the old farm in Randolph County. While there he attended the neighboring district schools, graduating from the Lynn High School. His experience in a business way began with a clerkship of two years in the Boston Store at Winchester, Indiana, after which he clerked in another store at Lynn for about two years. He then utilized his experience and training to engage in business for himself at Ridgeville for a short time, at Winchester five years, and in 1909 he removed to Geneva and opened his store as a dry goods merchant. He has studied the needs and conditions of the local community and has been very successful in his efforts to supply good and reliable merchandise and extend his trade over a large community.

Mr. Carter married Edna M. Boyd of Wayne County, Indiana. They have two children, Boyd Carter, aged eleven, and Corinne, aged eight. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Geneva, and Mr. Carter is one of the church trustees and is active also in the Sunday school. He is affiliated with Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and in politics is a republican.

Lemuel L. Mattox, M. D. For more than a quarter of a century the professional services of Doctor Mattox have been increasingly appreciated in and around Geneva, and his name wherever spoken in Adams County is associated with the ability and skill of the medical profession.

Doctor Mattox is a native of Adams County, born here September 5, 1862, a son of William L. and Bathsheba (Coverdale) Mattox. The Mattox family was founded in Adams County by Lewis Mattox, grand-

father of Doctor Mattox. Lewis Mattox was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1811, a son of John Mattox, a native of New Jersey. Lewis Mattox grew up in Pennsylvania, had only the limited advantages of the local schools of that day, and early in life removed to Knox County, Ohio, where he followed the trade of cooper in his own shop for a number of years. In the fall of 1840 he migrated to Adams County, Indiana, entering 240 acres in Monroe Township. He came to the county by wagon and team and lived in a tent made of his wagon cover until his log cabin was finished. Like other pioneers he endured many difficulties and hardships in getting established, but constant work and natural ability brought him a comfortable place in the community, where he was also recognized as a man of influence. He served as justice of the peace, was postmaster and kept the mail in his own home, was agent for the swamp lands of the county and did some of the pioneer ditching work. He was a democrat and a very active worker in the Presbyterian Church, which he served as elder and Sunday school superintendent. On August 28, 1835, he married Anna Stephenson, who was born in Knox County, Ohio, July 24, 1815.

William L. Mattox, father of Doctor Mattox, was born in Ohio and was brought to Adams County when a small boy. He was a farmer and lived on one farm in Blue Creek Township for fifty years, where he died. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a democrat in politics. His wife, Bathsheba Coverdale, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, and they were married at Monmouth in Adams County. Of their four children two are still living. The sister of Doctor Mattox is Mettie, wife of Virgil Mercer, and they occupy the old homestead farm in Blue Creek Township. Doctor Mattox also owns an interest in this farm.

Doctor Mattox grew up in the country, attended the district schools, and was a practical farmer some years before he entered the Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, where he took the full course and graduated M. D. in 1891. In the same year he returned to his native county and has since carried on a general practice as a physician and surgeon at Geneva. He is a member of the County Medical Society and has always kept pace with advanced ideas in the profession. In politics he is a democrat, has twice filled the chairs in his Geneva Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Church.

Doctor Mattox married Sophia Blocker. They have four children. Harold, a graduate of the Geneva High School, was a teacher for one term and then bought a half interest in the Geneva Herald and took up active newspaper work, and is now in the United States army located at Camp Shelby, 113th Engineer Corps. John L., the second son, is also a graduate of the Geneva public schools, lived for four years in Iowa, and after returning to Adams County taught school twelve months, but is now the active proprietor of the Geneva Herald. Louise is a graduate of the high school and the Bluffton School of Music, and has also taken an extension course in Chicago and is a teacher of music in the Geneva public schools. Lavon, the youngest child, is a graduate of the Geneva public schools.

James H. Hardison, a resident of Geneva for many years, is a veteran oil producer and operator, and has had an active experience in the various oil fields of the country beginning with those of Western Pennsylvania when petroleum was considered one of the new and astonishing products of the world.

Mr. Hardison has seen much of pioneering in different stages of his

life. He was born in Kennebec County, Maine, February 5, 1841, a son of Ivory and Dorcas (Abbott) Hardison. When he was two years of age his parents removed to Aroostook County, Maine, where he grew to manhood. Aroostook County was then a wild and desolate section, 170 miles from the nearest railroad, filled with wild game and anyone living there became thoroughly imbued with the life of the forest and all the experience and craftsmanship which that meant. Mr. Hardison had a good common school education, and at the age of twenty started out to make his own way in the world. He worked in the sawmills in Maine three years, then going to Pennsylvania, where he soon drifted into the oil fields. He began drilling in 1865 and for fully half a century his interests and activities have identified him with the producing end of the oil business.

In 1876 Mr. Hardison married Mary E. Brooking. She is a native of Newfoundland, and her father was a ship captain and was lost at sea when Mrs. Hardison was a girl. Her family subsequently moved to Mercer, Pennsylvania, where she grew up. Mr. Hardison operated in the oil districts of Western Pennsylvania for some years and finally moved out to Kansas, where he lived about six years. Later he returned to Pennsylvania and became an oil operator in that field and in 1893 did his first work in the oil fields of Indiana, operating around Geneva. His home has been at Geneva since.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardison have two children. Bertha, a graduate of the Geneva public schools, is the wife of H. O. Butler, and they live in California. Wallace B., who is unmarried, lives at home with his parents and is manager of the Hartford Oil Company.

Mr. James H. Hardison is a charter member of Geneva Lodge No. 621, Free and Accepted Masons, and his son Wallace is a past master of that lodge. Both are charter members of the Order of Eastern Star Chapter. Mr. Hardison is a Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, being affiliated with the consistory at Fort Wayne. Politically he is a strong and convincing advocate of republican doctrines. He was an ardent advocate of Roosevelt and still believes in perhaps the most virile statesman in America. Mr. Hardison has served as a member of the city council of Geneva. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1872, having joined that craft at St. Petersburg in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Later he was a member of the lodge at Salina, Kansas, and for a time was lodge treasurer there.

Louisa E. Marshall. One of the old and prominent families of Wells County is represented by Mrs. Louisa E. Marshall, a daughter of the late Lawson Popejoy. The Popejoys have been identified with this section of Indiana since the time of the wilderness, the ox team and the log cabin.

The late Lawson Popejoy, who died March 21, 1915, at the age of seventy-six years eleven months twenty-five days, through many long years had lived and prospered as a farmer and citizen at his home three and a half miles east of Bluffton. He was born in Fayette County, Ohio, March 26, 1838, a son of Christian and Nancy (Bowers) Popejoy. When he was two and a half years of age his parents came to Wells County, locating in the northeast quarter of section 24, Harrison Township. In the early '40s only few clearings here and there had been made in the wilderness of Wells County, and the Popejoys were among the families who bore the heat and burden of the day in establishing homes and making this land suitable. Lawson Popejoy grew up to a life of strenuous endeavors, attended subscription schools and later a

public school, and remained at home assisting his father in clearing up the farm until he was twenty-two. For a time he taught school in his home township.

Lawson Popejoy married Miss Orpha Davis, daughter of Elias and Ellen Davis. After his marriage he rented the old home farm and later bought it, and at the time of his death owned ninety-six acres. Besides his substantial position as a farmer he was a citizen of recognized influence throughout the county. In politics he was quite active, served as assessor of Harrison Township six years, as township treasurer four years, and in 1878 was elected county treasurer. He filled that county office four years and was also a trustee of Harrison Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Popejoy had five children: Louisa E.; Alice, wife of Clint Rush of Grant County, Indiana; Harriet, who died a number of years ago after her marriage to L. F. Hartman; Sherman of Hobson, Montana; and Lawson of Tipton, Indiana.

Louise E. Popejoy was born at the home of her parents in Harrison Township, December 4, 1866. She was educated in the common schools of Bluffton. She married for her first husband Oliver Wilhelm, whose death occurred in two years, leaving her a widow at the age of nineteen. In 1887 she married Roscoe Marshall. By that marriage there were two daughters. Oma N., the older, is the wife of Charles Lesh of Bridgeport, Illinois. Fern I., who finished her education in the common schools of Poneto, married Cecil Oswalt, and now lives on the home farm southeast of Poneto. Mr. Marshall died May 20, 1912. He was born in Huntington County, son of William and Elizabeth Freel Marshall. Mrs. Marshall owns a fine property of eighty acres of land comprising the north half of the northeast quarter of section 7 in Nottingham Township.

Henry Barkley is one of the enviable citizens of Adams County. The elements of his life have been so mixed that he has always exemplified the traits and characteristics of a vigorous American citizen, and with a career verging neither on poverty nor on wealth has been able to provide well for his own wants and for those of his growing family and has made good in all life's relations.

He is now comfortably situated as proprietor of a good farm of eighty acres two miles from Decatur in section 9 of Washington Township. He has his land thoroughly improved, with commodious farm buildings, including a comfortable residence of seven rooms, and a barn 36 by 56 feet. This has been his home for twenty-seven years, and practically every year good crops have responded as a reward of his labor and judicious management of the soil and its resources.

Mr. Barkley represents a rather old and widely honored name in this section of Indiana, where the Barkleys have lived for sixty years or more. Several different branches of the family have been in Adams County, and all of them trace their earlier ancestry back to the Pennsylvanians known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. Henry Barkley was born in Ashland County, Ohio, November 13, 1853. He was four years of age when his parents came to Adams County, Indiana. He is a son of Andrew and Hannah (Kahl) Barkley, also natives of Ohio. The father was born in 1823 and was a little older than his wife. He died June 27, 1890, and his widow survived him nearly a quarter of a century until September, 1914. They married in Ashland County, Ohio, and were farmers there as well as in Indiana. All their four children were born in Ashland County. Lovina, the oldest, who died September 14, 1915, was the wife of Emory Rummel, and by that marriage had ten children, two sons and eight daughters, all living now except the oldest child and all mar-

ried and with children of their own except one son. The second in the family is Henry Barkley. The third, Catharine, died after her marriage to John Cook, who is now living in the West. They had a family of six children. James A., the youngest of the family, lives on a farm in Van Wert County, Ohio, and is married and has children.

When this branch of the Barkley family came to Adams County they settled on land in Union Township. They had little more than established themselves on that farm when Andrew Barkley left home to serve as a soldier in the Civil war. He was gone fourteen months and while he escaped actual wounds he suffered much from diarrhea and other diseases of the camp and returned home in greatly impaired health. He soon afterward left the farm and established a butcher shop at Decatur, operating it with a relative as partner. For some years they conducted this business and some of his surplus earnings he invested in the farm that is now owned by his son Henry in Washington Township. His wife and children lived on that farm and later he and his wife resided in Decatur until his death. The widowed mother spent most of her remaining years in the home of her son Henry. They were active members of the Evangelical Church of Decatur. Andrew Barkley was a democratic voter, and while living in Union Township before the war was appointed and served as the first land appraiser of the county.

Henry Barkley had only limited opportunities to obtain an education, and the only source of instruction he had was the common schools of the country district. But he has kept himself well informed on the issues of life and has always maintained the reputation of a man of direct honesty and one who fails in none of those essential services that make up good neighborliness and true citizenship. He has lived most of the years of an average lifetime and yet has never been sued nor has he sued anyone as a means of obtaining justice.

In Van Wert County, Ohio, Mr. Barkley married Caroline Whitenbarger. She was born and educated in that county, her birth occurring October 25, 1860. Her birthplace was within half a mile of the Indiana State line. Mrs. Barkley died at the home farm in Washington Township of Adams County August 26, 1915. She was a daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Rummler) Whitenbarger, both natives of Ohio. Her parents married in Van Wert County and her mother died there when about fifty-six years of age and her father afterwards moved out to Kansas and died at the age of about seventy. He was at one time reckoned the wealthiest farmer in Harrison Township of Van Wert County, and was otherwise well known throughout that section of Western Ohio. He was a very decided republican in politics and his wife was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. In the Whitenbarger family were four sons and four daughters, and only one son is now living.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Barkley. Curtis A., who died in Washington Township several years ago, married Jessie Bossimor of Adams County, who survives him, but their only child, a son, died three weeks after the death of the father. Jessie A., the second child, is the wife of Clay Engle, a farmer in Washington Township. They have a daughter, Bernice Marie, now a student in the public schools. Mary is the wife of Cecil Harvey, a farmer in Union Township, and their family consists of two daughters, Mabel and Gladys. Glenn E., the only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Barkley, is thirteen years of age and is now a student in the high school at Decatur. Mr. Barkley has always been an active member of the Evangelical Church and his wife was a devout worshiper in the same faith. He is now and for years has served

as trustee, is head of the building committee, and both through official and private relations has done all he could to support and keep up the church as an institution and a beacon light in the community. Politically he is a democrat.

John B. Corson. In farming as in every other business some do well and some apparently waste their energies without profit or benefit to themselves or the world. It is of the better and ablest class of farmers that John B. Corson of Washington Township is a representative. His farm is not one of the largest in the township but it is one of the best equipped and managed, and everyone in the county knows it as the home of a man thoroughly progressive and up-to-date in his business affairs and a man of utmost public spirit in the community.

His place comprises eighty acres of land in section 32 of Washington Township. When he bought the land only about eight acres were partly cleared, but all is now under improvement except a valuable wood lot of three acres of native timber. The improvements alone would represent a modest fortune. Mr. Corson has built for his stock one of the largest barns in the township, 100 by 60 feet. Around and near it are various other buildings for some special purpose. His home is a substantial structure of nine rooms.

Mr. Corson has always been known in this section for his ability as a stock raiser. Up to 1906 for fourteen years he had one of the best herds of high grade Shorthorn cattle in the county. Perhaps his farm has received the greatest publicity and advertising because of the herd of deer which he kept there from 1900 to 1917. He had a park especially set aside for these fine animals, and he took a great deal of pride and showed a great deal of attention to handling and looking after them. He refused to sell any of the deer. Recently some epidemic struck the herd and killed all except a fawn seven days old, which he still keeps.

Mr. Corson came to Adams County from Shelby County, Ohio, in 1883. He was born in Fayette County of that state December 30, 1847. In 1856 at the age of nine years he went with his widowed mother to Shelby County, when that was still a somewhat new and sparsely settled district. According to popular tradition many witches were still in the woods of Shelby County and the superstitious and ignorant ascribed most of their ills to the presence of these evil spirits. Mr. Corson's paternal grandparents came from Rockingham County, Virginia, and were early settlers on a farm in Fayette County, Ohio. His grandmother died there in 1856, and his grandfather six or seven years prior to that, so that Mr. Corson knew very little of them as a boy. They were all members of the Primitive Baptist Church and the family for generations supplied democratic voters. Mr. Corson's father was Abraham Corson, who spent practically all his life in Fayette County, Ohio, where he died in the prime of life. His death was the result of an accident while he was engaged in repairing a water power sawmill. Abraham Corson married Diana Couts, who was born in Shelby County, Ohio. After the death of her husband she moved with her family to Shelby County, and there married Jacob Consolver. In 1885 she went west and settled fifty-two miles west of Aberdeen, South Dakota, where she died at the age of seventy-eight. Her husband was past eighty when he died. Mr. and Mrs. Consolver had two sons and two daughters.

John B. Corson is the oldest of five sons and one daughter of his father's children still living, and one son is deceased. All those living are married except one. John B. Corson grew up in Shelby County, Ohio, and lived at home on his mother's farm. He acquired an education rather better than that supplied to most of the country boys of his time.

Mr. Corson married for his first wife Mrs. Selma Watkins, who brought him a family of two daughters and one son, all of whom are now married. Mr. and Mrs. Corson had five sons, and of the triplets, two died in infancy. The survivor, Victor, now lives in Porter County, Indiana; Ross also lives in Porter County and the whereabouts of Frank is unknown. Mrs. Selma Corson died in 1884, her youngest child being about eighteen months old. Three years later Mr. Corson married his second wife being Mrs. Martha Lahabrun, a widow with three young daughters. These children were the greatest comfort to both Mr. and Mrs. Corson and all of the girls married neighbor boys and two of Mr. Corson's sons married in Porter County. They all have families and good homes. After sixteen years of married life Mrs. Corson died and in 1905 Mr. Corson rented his farm to the youngest girl's husband. On June 1, 1906, Mr. Corson started for the Pacific Coast where three of his brothers are living. He stopped off in South Dakota to visit a brother and sister. He remained all that winter at Seattle, Washington, where one brother lives and at Koose Bay, Oregon, where the other two live. In the spring of 1907 while visiting a neighbor near Germantown, Ohio, he met a widow with one child. In the fall of the year they married and Mr. Corson lived on his wife's farm for three years, renting his Indiana farm. At the end of that time they came to live on the Indiana place. About Thanksgiving Day, 1913, Mrs. Corson went to Ohio to visit her daughter and here took sick and died and was buried with her first husband.

For his present wife Mr. Corson married in Adams County April 9, 1914, Malinda Good, who was born in Washington Township June 16, 1860. She is a daughter of Jacob and Anna (Beery) Good, both natives of Ohio, her mother of Fairfield County where the parents married. After the birth of their children, Mary and Solomon Good, Mrs. Corson's parents moved to Adams County, Indiana, locating in the woods in section 18 of Washington Township. Their first home was a log cabin and they lived with its modest comforts until the parents were able to build a better structure which is still standing. Her father died there in 1888 at the age of seventy-five. He was an active democrat. His widow passed away some years later in December, 1907, at the home of a son in Dayton, being at the time eighty-nine years of age. The Good family were active members of the River Brethren Church. After they came to Adams County seven more children were born, and of these nine three sons and four daughters are still living and all are married and have children. Mrs. Corson first married Lewis Andrews, who died in 1910. By that union she became the mother of eight children, all of whom are now deceased except two. One, Mrs. Anna Maloney, died leaving three children, Edith, Winifred and Galley. Another, Mrs. Amy Smith, died leaving a son, Glenn. Among the other children of Mrs. Corson now deceased were Fannie, who died at the age of nineteen, and Lauran E., Lydia L., and Floyd, who died when quite young. The two living children of Mrs. Corson are: Virgil L. Andrews, who is seventeen years of age and has completed the work of the public schools; and Eli A. Andrews, who is still attending school. Mrs. Corson is an active member of the River Brethren Church. Mr. Corson is a Master Mason in the Decatur Lodge, and during his long residence in Adams County has won hosts of friends both in the county seat and in his home community.

James D. Hoffman. During forty years of residence in Adams County James D. Hoffman's career has been characterized by that steady industry and quiet efficiency which have enabled him to discharge important responsibilities and bear his part of the burdens of the world's

activities with credit and honor. Mr. Hoffman is a farmer by occupation and he and his family now have a comfortable country home in St. Mary's Township on Route No. 10 out of Decatur.

He was born in Schuykill County, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1850, and is of substantial Pennsylvania German ancestry. His grandfather, Peter Hoffman, was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and married Julia Hoffman, a native of the same county but not related to her husband. After his marriage Peter Hoffman moved to West Penn Township in Schuylkill County in 1817, and there he and his good wife spent the rest of their days. They were both members of the Reformed Church. Their children consisted of Stephen, John, Jonas, Susanna, Lydia, Catherine and Pauline.

Stephen Hoffman, father of James D., grew to maturity on the old home farm in Schuylkill County and about 1839 married Pauline Daubenspeck. They had the following children: Reuben, born January 19, 1840, and lost his life while a soldier in the Union army; William, born February 15, 1842, who also served in the Union army under General Hancock; Solomon, born February 22, 1843; Paulus, born September 2, 1844; Lydia, born December 10, 1845, and died in infancy; Jacob, born July 3, 1848, who though extremely young found service as a soldier in Grant's army toward the close of the war; James D., born June 8, 1850; Leah, born May 14, 1852; Noah, born June 19, 1855; Louis, born January 8, 1857; and Jonas, born March 20, 1861.

James D. Hoffman grew up in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and was educated both in the German schools and in the English school. He attended the latter school only six months. Work on the farm constituted a large part of his boyhood experience and he remained at home until June 4, 1874, when he married Miss Jennie Fulk and established a home of his own. She was born at Lordstown in Trumbull County, Ohio, September 13, 1852. They married at Warren, the county seat of Trumbull County.

After his marriage Mr. Hoffman moved to Adams County, Indiana, and located on a farm in Kirkland Township. Less than ten years after his marriage he lost his good wife by death December 31, 1883. Their children were: Henry, who died in infancy; Mary, wife of Joseph L. Graber; Ida, unmarried and living at Cleveland, Ohio; Dora M., deceased; Libbie and Lydia, twins, who died in infancy.

On December 13, 1885, Mr. Hoffman married for his present wife Catherine L. Hilgeman. Mrs. Hoffman was born at Magley, Adams County, Indiana, September 11, 1863, and was reared in Kirkland Township and educated both in German and English schools. Her parents were Henry and Wilhelmina (Lamert) Hilgeman, both natives of Hanover, Germany. Her father was born November 16, 1830, and her mother February 9, 1823. They came to this country when young people and were married at Magley in Adams County, Indiana, October 3, 1857. After their marriage they lived on a farm in Kirkland Township the rest of their days. In the Hilgeman family were three children: Frederick, who married Sophia Kreutzman and died in 1895; Rachel who died at the age of five years; and Catherine, Mrs. Hoffman.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman continued to live on their farm in Kirkland Township until 1909, when they sold out and for eight months had their home in Decatur. They then bought their present place in St. Mary's Township, where Mr. Hoffman owns forty acres and his wife twenty acres adjoining. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman's children are: Blanche, wife of Chester W. Shoaf; Jason, a graduate of Franklin College in Wisconsin and now a minister of the Reformed Church located at Sherwood, Oregon; James C., a graduate of the high school at Peterson

and now located at Warren, Ohio; and Frances, who was educated in the public schools and lives at Decatur; Lillie, who died in infancy; and Rachel Gladys, a graduate of the Decatur High School. The family are active members of the Reformed Church of Decatur. Mr. Hoffman was organizer of St. Luke's Reformed Church in Kirkland Township and was one of its leading members, serving as deacon and treasurer. In politics he is a democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are highly honored people and citizens of Adams County and have spent their most productive years in this community.

JOHN D. HALE. Numbered among the most highly esteemed and respected citizens of Decatur is John D. Hale, who for many years was a conspicuous figure in the business activities of Adams County, but now, having accomplished a satisfactory work, is living retired, enjoying a well-earned leisure. A native of Indiana, he was born, December 27, 1842, in Bluffton, Wells County, of Welsh ancestry, his line of descent from the immigrant ancestor being thus traced, James Hale, John, Bowen, and John D.

James Hale came to the new world with the William Penn colony, and was given a grant of land lying within the limits of Maryland, where he and his wife subsequently lived and died. Their son, John Hale, was born and bred in Maryland, but early in life, accompanied by one of his brothers, migrated to Kentucky. He located in the vicinity of Frankfort, where he married Miss Sarah Bowen, and his descendants, and those of his brother are to be found still in that region, and in Mason County, Kentucky, to which county he removed after his marriage to Sarah Bowen. He was a slaveholder, and a successful planter.

Being conscientiously opposed to the system of slavery he gave his slaves their freedom and paid them living wages while they remained with him and farmed in Mason County. After the death of his wife, he moved with his family to Greene County, Ohio, where he cleared and improved a homestead and established a dry goods and grocery store at the Village of Bellbrook. Later in life, during the '50s, he sold his farm and store to his third son, Silas Hale, and came to Indiana, and spent his last days in Whitley County, dying at the venerable age of ninety-six years. He was of Welsh ancestry, and was very liberal in his religious beliefs, being identified with the Universalist Church. In politics, he was a stanch supporter of the principles of the democratic party. He volunteered and served one year in the army during the War of 1812.

Bowen Hale, born July 4, 1801, in Mason County, Kentucky, was eighteen years of age when he moved with the family to Greene County, Ohio. Going to Dayton, Ohio, three years later, he learned the cabinet maker's trade. Subsequently going down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, he made the trip from Cincinnati to New Orleans and back. Coming to Wells County, Indiana, about 1833, he took up a claim near Murray, obtaining it from Orman Perrin, who had previously made a clearing on the place, and erected a rude log cabin. Soon after assuming its possession, Bowen Hale married Sarah Black, whose death and that of her first-born child, occurred the following year. There having been no markets for supplies in that locality, he decided to open a general store in his log cabin, and with that idea in view went with teams to Dayton, Ohio, for a supply of merchandise. There being only six families of pioneers in that locality his principal customers were from a village of Miami Indians at or near Markle, Indiana.

While on his trip in quest of goods, Bowen Hale met, near Byron, Ohio, Miss Mary Ann Deam, and they were married at Dayton, Ohio. Sending his teams ahead, he and his bride journeyed on horseback to

Wells County, Indiana, and began housekeeping at their new home in Bluffton, which was then a mere hamlet. The county was organized about that time, and he, being one of the best educated and prominent men of that sparsely settled region, was appointed to three of the most important offices, including those of county clerk, auditor and recorder. Retiring from mercantile pursuits in 1856, he bought land lying southeast of Bluffton, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, her death occurring in 1875, and his in 1886, at the age of eighty-five years. She was brought up in the German Reformed Church, but later became a member of the Presbyterian Church at Bluffton, Indiana. He was a sound democrat in politics, and a most efficient office holder. Also serving as justice of the peace, and county commissioner which offices he held for many years.

John D. Hale received excellent educational advantages, and as a young man taught school several terms. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was made corporal of his company by his commander, Capt. Peter Studebaker. Going South with his company, he assisted in driving Gen. Kirby Smith and General Bragg and their forces back from Cincinnati and Louisville, and was in the line of battle at Perrysville, Kentucky. Later he was with his command at Murfreesboro, and Stone River, but was not engaged in battle, being on a foraging expedition, but on one occasion at Vaughn's Hill near Milton, Tennessee, his regiment was surrounded by Morgan's raiders, and ordered to surrender. Instead of complying with Morgan's command, however, the regiment with the Seventy-fifth Indiana, One Hundred and Twenty-third Illinois and Nineteenth Indiana Battery, drove the marauders away.

Later, Mr. Hale, with his command, followed Bragg into Tennessee, going to Chickamauga and Chattanooga, in the latter place being for two days in the hottest part of the fight. Afterward, with the Army of the Cumberland, he assisted in driving the enemy over Missionary Ridge, but at that time he did not escape very easily, for, on November 25, 1863, at 4 o'clock P. M., Mr. Hale was shot, and left on the battle field for five hours. He was then first taken from the battle field to the hospital at Chattanooga, where the bullet which had passed through the left lobe of his lung was removed. Partially recovering from his wound, Mr. Hale, in February, 1864, was granted a furlough of ninety days, and returned to his home. Rejoining his regiment at Marietta, Georgia, at the expiration of his furlough, he took part in the battles of Peachtree Creek, Jamestown and the siege of Atlanta, and later not being able to march was detailed to take charge of the Brigade Ambulance and Hospital Corps, following Sherman in his famous march to the sea. Thence going North through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington and participated in the Grand Review of the armies by President Johnson and Generals Grant and Sherman. On June 26, 1865, Mr. Hale, with his regiment was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and honorably discharged from the service.

For two years after the close of the war, Mr. Hale was engaged in his previous professional labors, as a school teacher being quite successful. From 1868 until 1872 he carried on a good business as a member of the mercantile firm of A. Deam & Company in Bluffton. Going then to the new Town of Geneva, Adams County, he became agent of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway, and a grain dealer. In 1882 Mr. Hale was elected county clerk, and the following year settled in Decatur, where he then erected his present commodious home at No. 118 South Fifth Street. He served as county clerk for eight consecutive years, performing the duties devolving upon him in that capacity efficiently and expeditiously. In 1890 Mr. Hale, with characteristic foresight,

purchased a grain elevator on the Erie Railway, and when the Clover Leaf Railroad was put through Decatur he built an elevator on its track, and later established elevators at four Indiana towns, Monroe, Craigville, Curryville, and Peterson, all of which he managed successfully and profitably until 1910, when he retired from active pursuits. He was one of the directors of the First National Bank of Decatur, which he assisted in organizing, and for five years he was an active member of the city council, having been elected on the democratic ticket.

Mr. Hale married, in Schuyler County, Illinois, Caroline Holmes, who was born in Hartford Township in Adams County, Indiana, May 12, 1847, and died at her home in Decatur August 25, 1917, honored and beloved by all who knew her. Her father, Lemuel G. Holmes, was a pioneer of Adams County, buying land in Hartford Township which he traded for a farm in Wells County, and after farming for a time sold his land and engaged in the hotel business in Fort Wayne. He engaged in the dry goods trade in Bluffton; later he was a contractor on the Fort Wayne and Muncie Railway, and after that engaged in the monumental business at Portland, Indiana, where his death occurred at the age of three score and ten years. His wife survived him a few years. Mrs. Hale was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. Hale belonged, and for many years was active in the work of the church and Sunday school.

Five children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hale, namely: Ethel, wife of Hon. David E. Smith, of Decatur, and has six children living; Olive L., who married John Peterson, of Decatur, has three children, Lieut. Robert Hale of Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Battery, Dwight and Lois; Sarah, who married Hiram T. Gregg of Chicago, a brother of Rev. Edwin T. Gregg, a prominent Methodist Episcopal minister, died in the spring of 1917, leaving no children; Geneva H., wife of Rev. Earl Parker, of Mishawaka, Indiana, pastor of the Memorial Church, has four children, Eloise, Caroline, Theodore, and Mary Elizabeth; and Lucille, wife of Edward Wilson, of Mishawaka, Indiana, has one child, Jane.

Mr. Hale is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he takes great interest. In 1883 he was commissioned lieutenant and quartermaster of the Third Regiment, Indiana Legion, was re-commissioned and served two years, in all five years. He is also a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, being past master of his lodge; and of the Improved Order of Red Men, in which he is past chief sachem.

Wilson H. Lee. One of the old and substantial business houses of Decatur, now operated as the Lee Hardware Company, had its origin in small beginnings. Mr. Lee has had a business experience with this concern that covers a quarter of a century and has been its official head since the spring of 1913. During this period wonderful progress has been made in this advance the business ability and acknowledged foresight of Mr. Lee have had a part.

Wilson H. Lee was born in St. Mary's Township, Adams County, Indiana, March 25, 1867. His parents were Daniel and Catherine (Gulic) Lee. Daniel Lee was born in Pennsylvania, March 9, 1818, and died on his farm in Indiana at the age of seventy-two years. His first wife died in Pennsylvania. In 1850 he came to Adams County, Indiana, and secured a tract of government land in St. Mary's Township, to which he added as his circumstances permitted until he owned 176 acres. At the time of his death this land was all cleared and good improvements had

been placed on it. He was married in Adams County, his second wife, Catherine Gulic. She was born in 1823, in Virginia, and in 1849 accompanied her people to St. Mary's Township, Adams County, and there her father lived to the unusual age of ninety-two years. Her death occurred at the age of seventy-six years. Both she and husband were members of the Christian Church. In politics Daniel Lee was a republican. They had the following children: Emma, who is the wife of William Ayers and they live at Willshire, Ohio, and have two children; Effie, who lives in Michigan; Wilson H.; Lucetta, deceased, who was the wife of Clayton Rolph, left a son and daughter; Harvey, who lives at Fremont, Michigan, has three children.

Wilson H. Lee grew to manhood on his father's farm and obtained his education in the public schools. In 1892 he became a clerk in the hardware house of J. S. Bowers & Co. This business was founded in 1877 by J. S. Bowers, the name becoming J. S. Bowers & Co., as new capital came into the business and the name continued until 1904, when it was purchased by the firm of Laman & Lee, who conducted the business until 1912, when J. L. Laman died. The business was then incorporated under the title of the Lee-Stultz Company, which, on April 2, 1913, was changed to the Lee Hardware Company. The present officials of the company are: Wilson H. Lee, president and general manager; Peter Amsporg, vice president; Martin Miller, secretary; and Wilson H. Lee, treasurer. This house does an immense amount of business and has accommodations for one of the largest hardware stock in the state. The business is carried on in a commodious building on West Monroe Street, Decatur, and occupies three floors of a building with dimensions of 44 by 120 feet, and an adjacent warehouse with dimensions of 40 by 22 feet, the office rooms being in the rear of the main building. Their stock includes hardware of every description. Their farm implement stock is complete and even includes farm tractors of all kinds, including the Titan tractor. They also offer a full line of stoves, making something of a specialty of the Round Oak make. This company acts as agent for the Buick cars through the northern townships of the county. It is something of a privilege to be shown through so large, complete and well arranged establishment as this, and an interesting feature for the layman is the exhibit of special hardware and implements of simple but ingenious design of the use of which he may never have previously heard if not connected with a business in which hardware plays an important part.

Mr. Lee was married in Root Township, Adams County, to Miss Hala Laman, who was born in Ohio in 1870 and was brought by her parents to Root Township when young. They were David and Sarah Laman, natives of Ohio. David Laman was a farmer all his life until he moved to Decatur, after which he lived retired until his death when aged seventy years. Mrs. Laman survives and lives with her daughter, Mrs. J. S. Bowers. Mrs. Laman is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was her husband. They had two sons and two daughters. The former are deceased and both married daughters live at Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which body Mr. Lee is an elder. He is a member of the fraternal order of Knights of Pythias. He has led too busy a life to accept political preferment, but takes a good citizen's interest in all public matters and votes with the republican party.

William M. Blocher. Among the enterprising men who are carefully looking after the commercial interests of Domestic, Indiana, is William M. Blocher, who conducts the leading mercantile establishment

in the village. Mr. Blocher is highly thought of as a business man, being honorable and upright in all his dealings, and as the main part of his business life has been spent here, his fellow citizens know of his persevering efforts to get a footing, for he is a self-made man.

William M. Blocher was born in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, April 15, 1866, and is a son of Michael and Hannah (Gisel) Blocher. Michael Blocher was born in Germany and was twenty years old when he emigrated to the United States and located near Decatur in Adams County, Indiana. He was married there and later moved to Wells County, Indiana, and died on a farm situated one mile north and a half mile east of Domestic. Of his five children three are living, namely: Charles, who is a farmer in Louisiana; and John and William M., who are both living in Nottingham Township, the former a farmer and the latter a merchant and blacksmith.

William M. Blocher was nine years old when his father died. He remained with his mother and worked on the farm in the summers and went to school in the winters, until he was fifteen years old and then started out for himself. He had a natural skill with tools and this gift he turned to account by learning the blacksmith trade and worked at the same for twelve years in Domestic, gradually acquiring the capital which enabled him to embark in the mercantile business. On occasion he still works in his shop, but devotes his time mainly to his store. He carries a large and carefully selected stock and does a very satisfying business.

Mr. Blocher was married in 1900 to Miss Ella Burie, who is a daughter of John Burie, and she was reared and educated in Nottingham Township, Wells County. They have one daughter, Emma, who was born in 1907.

Mr. Blocher lays no claim to being a politician, but he is stanch in his adherence to the democratic party and gives hearty support to its candidates. He is a member of Linn Grove Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Maynard A. Frisinger. Clear-headed and far-seeing, and possessing much ability and good judgment, Maynard A. Frisinger of Decatur holds a position of note among the successful business men of his community, being associated with his father, a widely known horse breeder, and an extensive dealer in hay. A native of Adams County, he was born, December 22, 1883, in St. Mary Township, a son of John M. and Mary J. (Peterson) Frisinger.

Having completed his early education in the Decatur High School, Mr. Frisinger was for four years a clerk in the Decatur postoffice. Then, in 1906, having rendered satisfactory service in that position, he was appointed, by President Roosevelt, postmaster at Decatur, and assumed the position on July 1, of that year. He had the distinction of being the youngest man ever appointed postmaster of a second class postoffice in the state, if not in the country. As a postmaster, he was very successful and popular, serving acceptably until July 1, 1910, and in the time making many friends. Mr. Frisinger then spent two years on his father's stock farm, being engaged in the raising of full blooded stock. Since March, 1913, he has resided in Decatur, being associated in business with his father, who built up a wide reputation as an importer of Norman, Percheron and Belgian horses, and is now carrying on a remunerative business as a dealer in hay.

Mr. Frisinger married, in St. Mary Township, Alma Dailey, who was born, May 10, 1887, in Adams County, and was brought up in St. Mary Township, and educated in the Decatur High School. Her father,

James T. Dailey, Jr., was a son of James T. Dailey, Sr., whose father was drowned when coming across Baffins Bay, en route from Ireland to America.

James T. Dailey, Sr., married, in Ohio, Mary Johnson, a native of that state, and soon after that important event came with his bride to Adams County, Indiana, locating in St. Mary Township, where he became an extensive landholder, and a most successful stock breeder, raiser, and dealer. He died on his home farm in April, 1863, and his widow survived him a number of years, passing away in 1884. She was the mother of eleven children, two of whom, James T., Jr., and Esaias, were posthumous children. Of her large family, four sons and three daughters are still living, all but one of them being married and having families. Mrs. Frisinger's parents, James T., Jr., and Hannah (Smith) Dailey, are living on their well improved and productive farm of 100 acres in St. Mary Township. Both are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are the parents of two children, namely: Mrs. Frisinger; and Bernice, wife of Simeon Burke of Decatur, who has one son, George Thomas Burke.

Mr. and Mrs. Frisinger have three children, namely: Margaret, born August 11, 1908; Robert, born November 13, 1909; and Mary E., born October 2, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Frisinger belong to the Presbyterian Church. Politically Mr. Frisinger is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Fred Schafer is one of the principal men who have made business history in Decatur, and for forty years the Schafer business has been a landmark on Second Street and from a modest stock and equipment it has grown until today the Schafer Hardware Company has the largest store and business of its kind in Northern Indiana, second in size to any in the state.

The Schafer Hardware Company was incorporated in 1912 with Mr. Fred Schafer as president, Chalmer C. Schafer, his son, as vice president, and J. B. Miebers as secretary. All these men are substantial and well known citizens of Decatur. The company is capitalized at $25,000. There is probably not a citizen of Adams County who is not familiar with the store. The building runs clear back from Second Street to First Street and covers about a half acre of land. One part is devoted entirely to farming implements of every kind and also to motor driven apparatus, including the Oakland automobile, for which the company has the Adams County agency, and also for tractors of different kinds, buggies, the Turnbull wagons, threshing machines, and engines. They also have a complete shop for general repairs.

In the retail department there is two distinct divisions. One is largely used for harness and automobile accessories, while the other contains a complete line of shelf hardware of every description, also stoves, tinware, paints, etc. The main building is 62 by 132 feet. The firm carries a popular type of cream separator and has sold as many as a hundreds of them in a single year. Of agricultural machinery they handle the John Deere makes and also the McCormick and Deering harvesting machinery put out by the International Harvester Company. It is by no means a local business in its scope and importance. Much of their trade comes from across the state line of Ohio.

Mr. Schafer first engaged in the hardware business at Decatur in 1875. At that time he had limited capital to embark in the enterprise and only gradually and by careful and systematic efforts built up the concern to its present high standard. Second Street has always been his home, but three times fire has been a visitor in the store. In 1914

fire totally destroyed the large plant, and the company then erected the present three story brick building, which is as substantial as could be made and as nearly fireproof as possible.

At the beginning Mr. Fred Schafer had as a partner his brother Jacob R., who is now living retired at Dallas Texas, and has a large amount of money invested there in local real estate. The brothers were associated for sixteen years, after which Mr. Fred Schafer was in business on his own account before the corporation was organized. As a young man he had learned the trade of tinner in Decatur and subsequently spent two years as a journeyman worker in the West. This was the experience with which he returned to Decatur and engaged in business for himself in 1875.

Mr. Schafer was born in Medina County, Ohio, in 1851, and was brought to Adams County, Indiana, when about three years of age. He is a son of Christian and Catherine (Ahr) Schafer. Both were born in Germany and came with their respective parents in sailing vessels across the Atlantic Ocean and first located in Medina County, Ohio. The parents of Christian Schafer spent their remaining years on a farm in that county. Both were members of the Evangelical Church. The grandparents Ahr subsequently moved to Indiana and died at South Bend. Christian Schafer after his marriage in Medina County lived on a farm until six children were born, and in 1855 brought his family to Adams County, Indiana, and bought a farm in Washington Township. This he later sold to the county commissioners to be used for a county infirmary, and it is so used to the present time. This old farm is two and a half miles from Decatur. Christian Schafer and family then lived eight or ten years in Decatur and finally removed to South Bend, Indiana, where he died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife at eighty-four. After going to South Bend both became active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and died in that faith. Christian Schafer was a republican.

Mr. Fred Schafer married at Decatur Sarah B. Weimer. She was born in Adams County, Indiana, in 1848, and of Pennsylvania parents. The Weimers were among the pioneers of Adams County. Her father, George Weimer, fought as a soldier in the Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry during the Civil war, and was sent home on a furlough. While coming home he was taken ill at Kokomo and died there in May, 1863, when a comparatively young man. He left a widow and two daughters, one of them being Mrs. Schafer and the other is Mrs. Olie Miebers, whose husband is secretary of the Schafer Hardware Company. Mr. and Mrs. Miebers have a daughter Georgia, a graduate of the Decatur High School. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, and his son is a member of the Masonic order.

Their only son is Chalmers C. Schafer, who was born at Decatur and was well educated in the high school and also in the Culver Military Academy at Culver, Indiana. He attended the State Normal School at Huntington, Indiana, and then returned to take up an active business career. About eight years ago he organized the Schafer Saddlery Company, and four years ago they established a large manufacturing plant at Decatur, of which he is manager, secretary and treasurer. This is one of the firms that have given commercial prestige to Decatur all over Northeastern Indiana. They handle a large jobbing business in automobile and bicycle accessories and also sell many steel products. In placing their goods and the manufacturing concerns which they represent they have three commercial men in Ohio, three in Indiana and Illinois, and one in Michigan. This company is composed of C. C.

Schafer, Mr. Fred Schafer, and L. C. Warring. Chalmers C. Schafer married Miss Emma Daniels, daughter of Rev. Mr. Daniels of Decatur. They have three children, Gretchen, Frederick and Daniel.

BENEDICKT LINIGER. Many of the most thriving and enterprising agriculturists of Adams County have come across the sea, and having brought to their new homes the habits of industry and thrift common to their countrymen have won success in their ventures. Prominent among the number is Benedickt Liniger, of Preble Township, a progressive and prosperous farmer, and a man of far more than average business ability and judgment. He was born, May 18, 1858, in Berne, Switzerland, a son of Christian and Magdalena Liniger.

Bred and educated in his native country, Benedickt Liniger came to the United States April 1, 1878, and located in the German settlement, just east of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, where for fifteen years he was engaged in business as a cheese manufacturer. In 1884 Mr. Liniger invested in land, buying sixteen acres, lying just across the line in Adams County. He soon disposed of that at an advantage, and for three years rented a farm of 160 acres, and continued the making of cheese. Giving up that business in 1887, Mr. Liniger purchased sixty acres of land in Harrison Township, Wells County, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Selling sixty acres of that estate at the expiration of twelve years, Mr. Liniger bought 140 acres in French Township, Adams County, and a year later sold it at a good profit. In 1903 Mr. Liniger bought 200 acres of land in Kirkland Township, forty acres of which he subsequently sold, and kept the remaining 160 acres of fine land, on which he has erected good buildings. He has retired from this farm and bought a home in Preble Township, consisting of nine acres, well improved with good buildings. An energetic, hard-working man, possessing sound judgment, and good financial ability, Mr. Liniger has been fortunate in his real estate transactions, while by persistent labor and wise management he made the farm which he left one of the very best in Kirkland Township, all of it with the exception of fourteen acres of native timber being in a fine state of culture.

Mr. Liniger married Christina Dettinger, who was born in Ohio, December 22, 1861, a daughter of John and Mary Dettinger, who reared the following named children: Margaret; Eliza; Christina; Jacob; John, deceased; Caroline; Samuel; Charles; Mary; Rose; Wilson; and Emma. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Liniger, namely: Emma, who married Burt Weaver of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has one child, Norma; Fred; Frank, deceased; Daniel; Charles; Julia; Frank; Harvey; Paulina, deceased; and Rodger. Mr. and Mrs. Liniger are active members of the Reformed Church.

JULIUS J. BRITE. A practical and prosperous young farmer of Adams County, full of push and energy, Julius J. Brite is successfully engaged in his free and independent occupation in Root Township, where he has a most pleasant and attractive home. A native of Adams County, he was born, July 19, 1889, in Washington Township of German ancestry.

John Brite, Mr. Brite's father, was born in Germany, and as a child was brought by his parents to the United States. After attaining his majority he embarked in agricultural pursuits on his own account, for a few years renting land in Washington Township. In 1891 he bought a farm of eighty acres in the same township, and managed it successfully until 1893, when he sold it at an advantage. He married, in 1886, Margaret Koenig, who was born in Germany, and at the age of

four years came with her parents to Indiana. She died August 18, 1895.

Brought up on the home farm, Julius J. Brite received a good common school education, and being an extensive and intelligent reader keeps himself well informed on the topics of the day. He was well drilled in the agricultural branches as a boy and youth, and soon after his marriage settled in Root Township on the farm which he now owns and occupies, assuming its possession on November 29, 1914. It consists of forty acres of highly productive land, advantageously located in the southwest corner of Root Township, and is amply supplied with all the necessary buildings and equipments for carrying on his work successfully.

Mr. Brite married, September 23, 1914, Miss Gertrude Geels, a daughter of George and Anna Geels, who reared three other children, namely: Joseph H.; John F.; and Mary, who is in St. Agnes Convent, in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Brite have two children, John G. and Roman J. Religiously Mr. Brite and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

JOHN O. DAILEY, whose career as a farmer, stockman and banker is probably familiar to most of the people of Wells County, has in addition to his individual success many associations and ties to make him exceedingly loyal to the county of his birth.

Mr. Dailey was born in Lancaster Township of Wells County, April 21, 1870, and is a member of a family that has lived in this section since the days of wild Indians, the big timber and log cabins. His father was the late James Dailey, who in his time was accorded some of the highest honors paid to a public spirited citizen in the county.

James Dailey was born at Camden, New Jersey, September 24, 1815, and died in his eighty-fifth year on January 27, 1900. His parents were James and Mary Ann (Miller) Dailey, who in 1827, when their son was twelve years of age, moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in the following year to Franklin County, Indiana, and in their wilderness home in that section James Dailey spent his youth, getting only a rudimentary education in the subscription schools but developing strength of muscle and good judgment by the heavy work of clearing and cultivating a pioneer farm. Despite the lack of early advantages he qualified himself to teach school, and some of the first money he earned after his majority was in teaching the children of people among whom he had grown up. He also learned the trade of carpenter and was largely employed as a carpenter or teacher until coming to Wells County.

In March, 1842, he arrived in this county accompanied by his wife and one child. His cash possessions on reaching here were only 75 cents. He located on a rented tract in section 10 of Lancaster Township, and his first crop was put in on the five acres which constituted the only clearing. A year later he bought on credit and moved to a forty acre tract in the heavy timber on section 21 of the same township. That was his home for seven years, and besides clearing away some of the woods and brush, he taught school and worked as a carpenter. His chief business was farming, and from that source he gained a prosperity that made him one of the substantial citizens of Wells County. For many years he owned one of the larger farms of Lancaster Township.

He had not been long in the county before his character and abilities brought him public attention, and in 1845 he was elected magistrate of his home township. He resigned the duties of this office in 1850 upon his election as county auditor. He filled the office two terms, and during that time lived at the county seat at Bluffton, the homestead being where the county jail now stands. In 1850 he also helped take the census

of Wells County. He was deputy and acting sheriff of the county in 1865-66 and for several years was a member of the Bluffton School Board. In 1867 he returned to his farm in Lancaster Township and after that was repeatedly honored with local offices. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternity, and had voted the democratic ticket from the time of Andrew Jackson.

James Dailey was twice married. In Franklin County, Indiana, November 1, 1837, he married Lydia Garton, daughter of Jonathan Garton. She died on their farm in Wells County February 13, 1850, in her thirtieth year. She was the mother of five children: Charles, Lewis, Joseph S., Mary Ann and Rachel. Of these children Joseph S. became one of the most eminent members of the Wells County bar, while Lewis entered the Union army as first lieutenant of Company I Twenty-second Indiana Infantry, being the youngest officer in his regiment, and died in his twentieth year at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The daughter Rachel married Thomas J. Sowards of Lancaster Township.

On April 21, 1851, James Dailey married Adeline E. Niblick, who was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, November 9, 1829, daughter of James and Anna (Carter) Niblick. The Niblicks are prominent among the leading pioneer families of Adams County, Indiana, where they established their home, a few miles west of Decatur in the year 1838. Mrs. James Dailey is still living, in her ninetieth year, in perfect health, and with intellect as unimpaired as many a woman of forty. She is one of the historic personages of these two counties, and her memory travels back a longer time in the now dim and distant past than perhaps any other resident. There are many incidents of pioneer life of seventy or eighty years ago which are still fresh in her mind. She became the mother of eleven children, named briefly as follows: Edgar A., who married Annie Ritchie; James T., who first married Cora Sunior and for his second wife Ellen Fitzgerald; Edessa M., who married Lemuel Sturgis; Dora J., who married Ben Hoover; Augusta May, who became the wife of P. P. Hartman; Robert M., who married Ellen Nash; Nellie A., wife of A. C. Ferguson; Willard L., who died in his nineteenth year; Melbra Addie, deceased; John O.; and Jesse N., who married Eva Hoover.

John O. Dailey spent his early life on his father's homestead in Lancaster Township, was educated in the public schools there, and after reaching his majority applied his efforts to farming. He now owns a fine stock farm of 140 acres, improved with excellent home and barns and other buildings, does general farming and stock raising, feeding hogs by the hundred and cattle by the carload, and is one of the largest stock shippers out of Wells County. Mr. Dailey is a man far above the average intellectuality and has always possessed the ability to make money and render important service in a business capacity. A number of years ago he became interested in the private bank of Tocsin as a stockholder and cashier, and the management of that successful institution has largely devolved upon him. Mr. Dailey is a democrat in politics and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias lodge.

On February 21, 1906, he married Miss Ella J. Ferguson, daughter of James and Mary Ferguson of Jefferson Township, Wells County. Mrs. Dailey's brothers and sisters are: Eliza, wife of Frank Archibald; Clarence, who married Artie Leisure; Grace, wife of J. C. Gallivan; Victor, unmarried; and Floyd, who married Opal Paulison. Mr. and Mrs. Dailey have three bright young children: James Ferguson, aged ten; Mary Adeline, aged three; and Jesse Victor, who was born in 1916.

Martin H. Kirchner. Prominent among the native-born citizens of Kirkland Township, Adams County, who have spent their lives within

its precincts, and have aided in every possible way its development and growth, whether relating to its agricultural, financial, or industrial interests, stands Martin H. Kirchner, whose birth occurred on the farm of his father, William R. Kirchner, April 5, 1869.

William R. Kirchner was born, bred and married in Germany. Coming to America with his bride, he spent about two years in the East, working at his trade of a baker, first in New York City, and later in Philadelphia. Coming from the latter place to Adams County, Indiana, he bought a farm of sixty acres in Kirkland Township, and began to clear and improve a homestead. He subsequently purchased another farm, containing forty acres, and managed them both most successfully, placing them under a high state of culture. A man of good business capacity, public-spirited and enterprising, he became prominent in the administration of local affairs, and served most acceptably in various official positions. For six or more years he was township supervisor, and for twenty-three years was township assessor. He was very popular as a man and a citizen, and his death, in July, 1905, was deemed a loss to the entire community.

William R. Kirchner married, while yet a resident of Germany, Paulina Otto, and into the household thus established eight children were born, as follows: Paulina, Mary, Elizabeth, Ida, Rosalia, Martin H., John, and Henry. The mother died in April, 1907. Both she and her husband were members of the German Lutheran Church, and reared their family in the same faith.

Succeeding to the pleasant and profitable occupation to which he was reared, Martin H. Kirchner is numbered among the substantial and prosperous farmers and stockraisers of Kirkland Township, where he has spent his entire life. He married, November 5, 1893, Anna Fuhrman, a native of Adams County. Her father, Charles Fuhrman, was born in Germany, and at the age of two years was brought by his parents to Adams County, Indiana. Mr. Fuhrman married Minnie Nuerge, a native of Adams County, and they became the parents of six children, William; Anna; Amelia; August; Ernst; and Minnie. Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner have five children, namely: Herbert, Frances, Amalia, Paula, and Mildred. Mr. Kirchner helped to build the first telephone line in Kirkland Township and was president of the company for two years and trustee for eleven years. He also helped to form the Preble Telephone Company. He played for twenty-one years in the Preble Cornet Band, which he helped to organize. Mr. Kirchner is a member of the Lutheran Church and was a trustee of the church for two years and a deacon two years. Politically he is a stanch democrat.

JOHN W. DUNN. Noteworthy among the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Wells County, John W. Dunn occupies a place of prominence among the active farmers of Liberty Township, his well-tilled land being rich and productive, and in its improvements and appointments bearing evidence of the skill and ability with which it is managed. A son of S. W. Dunn, he was born in Randolph County, Indiana, March 28, 1862.

S. W. Dunn, a native of Darke County, Ohio, came to Indiana as a young man, and for some time worked as a farm laborer in Randolph County. There, after his marriage, he bought land, and embarked in agricultural pursuits on his own account. Disposing of his farm a few years later, he moved to Miami County, Indiana, where he was engaged in business as a contractor and builder until his death, while yet in the prime of manhood. He was active in republican ranks, and a valued member of the Wesleyan Church. His wife, whose maiden name was

Louisa A. Cossey, was born in North Carolina, in Randolph County, and as a young girl came to Randolph County, Indiana, with her parents. Four children were born of their union, two of whom are living, as follows: Edward, a resident of Randolph County, Indiana; and John W.

A lad when the family moved to Miami County, John W. Dunn acquired his early knowledge of books in the public schools of Amboy. Left motherless when young, he began life as a wage-earner before entering his teens, working at various employments and trades, including that of painting. Becoming interested in agriculture, he obtained a practical knowledge of its many branches, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Miami County of forty-one acres belonging to his wife. He afterward traded this for an eighty acre one and then again traded the eighty acres for 100 acres near Bunkerhill. He then sold this and purchased the Funk farm, lying east of Bluffton, in Lancaster Township, Wells County. Occupying that place a few years, Mr. Dunn sold out, and moved to Southeastern Missouri, where he obtained title to 400 acres of land, which he has now sold at a nice profit. On November 15, 1914, Mr. Dunn returned to Liberty Township, and having assumed possession of his present fine farm of 185 acres has since been prosperously engaged in adding to the fertility of the soil, having now one of the most valuable and attractive estates in the vicinity. He has purchased a farm of 160 acres in Rock Creek Township, one of the good farms of Wells County.

Mr. Dunn married Mary A. Snyder, who was born in Miami County, Indiana, March 26, 1864, a daughter of Cornelius Snyder. Six children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, namely: Nora, wife of George Melvin Clark; Wilber R., who is married to Miss Mable Graham and lives in Lancaster Township; Charles I.; Orrel L.; Audrey D.; and Alice F. Politically Mr. Dunn is a republican, but he has never sought public office. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Henry M. Crownover, proprietor of the Brookside Farm in St. Mary's Township, has made his years and experience count toward useful ends not only as a farmer but also as a teacher and educator of the young. Mr. Crownover has spent more than twenty years in school work and is still in duty as a teacher of the eighth grade in the Pleasant Mills public schools.

Mr. Crownover and wife now enjoy one of the up-to-date modern homes of the county, located in section 31 of St. Mary's Township and on Route No. 1 out of Pleasant Mills. Mr. Crownover was born in Wayne County, Indiana, September 18, 1867, a son of John and Mary (Mittendorf) Crownover. His father was born in Wayne County, Indiana, and his mother in Germany, coming to the United States with her parents when ten years of age. She grew up in Franklin County, Indiana, married there, and after a time they settled on a farm in Wayne County, Indiana. In 1881 John Crownover moved his family to Howard County, Indiana, where he spent the rest of his days. His widow is still living in that county. He was a democrat, but never sought office, and was one of those quiet, unassuming, industrious characters who do much good in life without attracting the abnormal notice of their fellow men. There were six children in the family, four of whom are still living: John, employed by Sears, Roebuck & Company of Chicago; Henry M.; Mary C., wife of Charles Randall; and Elizabeth, wife of Curtis Poster.

Henry M. Crownover grew up on his father's farms in Wayne and Howard counties. He was about fourteen years old when the family moved to Howard County. His education was acquired in the district

schools in the locality of his home, and he also attended Normal School at New London and Kokomo. For twenty-seven years Mr. Crownover has taught school, spending twenty-two years in Howard County and five years in Adams County.

February 3, 1897, he married Laura G. Hanna of Howard County, Indiana. Mrs. Crownover was born in that county and was educated in the public schools there. She is a daughter of Palestine Hanna and a granddaughter of J. L. D. Hanna, who was a pioneer teacher for twenty years in Indianapolis. Both the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Crownover, Mary and Valencia, are now deceased, but they have reared in their home an adopted son since he was seven years of age, Harry S. Crownover, who finished the work of the common schools at the age of thirteen. Mrs. Crownover is interested in public work, being one of the chairmen of the Third Liberty Loan Committee and president of Food Conservation of St. Mary's Township. She also cares for state wards, having one in her home almost constantly and does much charity work. Mr. and Mrs. Crownover are members of New Zion Christian Church in Howard County. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife are members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. Politically Mr. Crownover is a democrat. As a farmer he has given much attention to the better grades of livestock, and his education and good judgment have brought him many of the more pleasant circumstances of life.

Edwin M. Ray is member of a pioneer family of Adams County and his name has been one of increasing prominence in the Village of Berne for the past twenty-two years. He is now secretary and treasurer of the A. J. Moser & Company, a firm that does a large and extensive business in the village and throughout the surrounding country in automobile accessories and repair work and in vapor, steam and hot water fitting.

Mr. Ray was born in Monroe Township of Adams County October 14, 1869, grew up on a farm, and besides the advantages of the district school he attended the old Normal institution at Angola. He had just reached his majority when he took his first school, and for six years was engaged in teaching the country districts, in French Township and in his native township. Then twenty-two years ago he moved to Berne and here he continued his work as a teacher in the local schools for six years.

On leaving educational work Mr. Ray found employment with the Berne Supply Company, but after a time took up the newspaper business with the Berne Witness, and was secretary and treasurer of the publishing company for several years. On February 17, 1910, he became secretary and treasurer of the A. J. Moser & Company.

This is an incorporated business, having operated under a charter since September, 1904. However, the business is much older than that, having been established many years ago by A. J. Moser, president of the company. At the time of the incorporation the capital stock was fixed at $17,500, but it was increased in August, 1913, to $30,000, and on December 23, 1916, $30.000 of preferred stock was authorized.

Mr. Ray has made a successful business record in spite of the fact that he lost his father when he was a small boy, and from an early age has had to depend largely on his own resources. He is a son of Levi W. Ray, and a grandson of John W. Ray, one of the real pioneers of Adams County.

John W. Ray was born in Cecil County, Maryland, April 16, 1817, a son of Jonathan and Deborah Ray. Jonathan Ray was born in 1792, served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and died in Allen County, Ohio, in 1878. John W. Ray was only six years of age when his parents re-

moved to Jefferson County, Ohio, and later to Harrison County, in which state he spent his early life. It was in the fall of 1851 that he came to Adams County, Indiana, and located on 160 acres of land in Blue Creek Township. Here after completing a log house he began the work of clearing, and in the course of time his land responded to his efforts and became one of the best farms in the township. He continued to live on his land until 1884, when he moved to the Village of Salem, where he died a number of years ago. October 27, 1842, John W. Ray married Merty Smith, a native of Jefferson County, Ohio. She died January 19, 1880, the mother of nine children: Catherine, Mary, Levi W., James H., David S., Margaret, Martha, Rosa, and Lemuel. John W. Ray in 1884 married Mrs. Rebecca Gilpin Campbell. Levi W. Ray was born in Ohio, and after a brief though industrious career as a farmer died at the age of forty-seven years. He married in Monroe Township Miss Sarah J. Harris, who was born there about 1850, member of another pioneer family of the county. She died in 1887. Her parents were William and Julia A. (Jones) Harris, both natives of Knox County, Ohio. After their marriage and the birth of one child they removed to Adams County, securing a tract of eighty acres of Government land near the center of Monroe Township. This was cleared up and some crops were made before any of the roads had been laid through that district. William Harris was a man of much energy and good business principles and eventually extended his farm to comprise 280 acres. Though he died at the age of forty-seven he was accounted one of the most financially prosperous citizens of the township. His widow survived him many years and passed away about 1910. She was born in 1830. The original eighty acre homestead of the Harris family is still owned by the younger daughter, Mrs. William Hendricks. The Harris family were Lutherans, while the Rays for generations have been Methodists.

Edwin M. Ray was the oldest of three children. His brother H. P. Ray is connected with the Findlay Creamery Company at Findlay, Ohio, and is unmarried. His sister Ida B. is the wife of George H. Longwith, a grocer at Portland, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Longwith have four children, Mary, Guy, Ruth and Gordon. Mary is now training for the nursing profession in a sanitarium at Marion, Ohio, and Guy is a teacher in North Dakota.

Edwin M. Ray married in his native township Miss Anna L. Mullin. She was born in Licking County, Ohio, in 1871, but grew up and received her education in Adams County. She is a daughter of Jehu and Gertrude (Sibley) Mullin, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York State. Her parents married in Ohio and in 1884 removed to Monroe Township of Adams County, where they conducted a farm for a number of years, but spent their last days at Gas City, Indiana, where her father died November 5, 1917, and her mother on November 25, 1914. Jehu Mullin was a veteran of the Civil war, serving over two years, much of the time under the famous General Sheridan. He was twice wounded and during the Shenandoah Valley campaign was wounded and narrowly escaped capture. Jehu Mullin's mother is still living at Gas City, now past the age of ninety-three.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray have one daughter, Gertrude Bernice. She was born October 22, 1896, graduated from the Berne High School in 1914, attended Earlham College for two years, and is now doing some very capable and efficient work as domestic science teacher in the public schools of Monroe. Mr. Ray and family are all members of the Evangelical Church at Monroe, and he is class leader and financial secretary

of his church. Politically he is a prohibitionist, and his grandfather was one of the pioneer members of that party in Adams County.

ABRAHAM J. MOSER. The best measure that can be applied to the value of any business or individual is the degree of service rendered. From that point of view one of the most valuable citizens of Adams County for a long period of years has been Abraham J. Moser. Mr. Moser had by inheritance a certain inclination and ability at mechanics and machinery. He applied it early in life and gradually the demands upon him were more than could be supplied by his own work. He finally opened a shop at Berne and there for many years has conducted the chief business of its kind in that section of Adams County and is now president of the A. J. Moser & Company, performing a wide range of service, heating, plumbing, general machinery work and repair, and also automobile dealers and garage proprietors.

Mr. Moser represents one of the original Swiss colonies in Adams County, and his own birth occurred in French Township November 27, 1858. He spent his early life on a farm and acquired his early education in the district schools. At the age of nineteen he left home and for a number of years did work as an operator of threshing outfits. He gradually developed his skill to a point where he was almost constantly employed as an engine machinist, and his services were called to look after broken down engines all over this part of the state. He was kept exceedingly busy and found it difficult to perform a maximum amount of work since so much of his time was used up in traveling about from place to place. In order to conduct his business more efficiently he therefore moved to Berne, and opened a shop to which much of the work requiring his attention could be brought. He also hired help, and for one year rented his quarters, and then constructed a shop of his own, a building 70 by 40 feet on Main Street. Here for the last ten years he has done a large and flourishing business in the various lines in which he is expert, as a general machinist, heating and plumbing operator, and has in recent years gradually adapted his business to the needs of the automobile industry. The business was incorporated in 1904, Mr. Moser as president, and is now operating with $30,000 capital.

Mr. Moser's grandfather Peter and the father Jacob G. Moser were both natives of Switzerland. Jacob was born in 1833, and when about three years of age Peter Moser brought his family to America. Leaving Switzerland, they embarked on a sailing vessel at Havre, France, and after a voyage of thirty-six days landed in New York. Thence the journey westward was made up the Hudson River, over the Erie Canal to Buffalo, by lake boat to Cleveland, and down one of the Ohio canals to Wayne County. A year later a sturdy pair of oxen drew a wagon loaded with the goods and family of the Mosers through the woods and over the rough trails and roads to Adams County. Their destination was a tract of Government land, heavily wooded, and without an acre in cultivation. Peter Moser spent some time in picking out his farm and selected the highest land he could find in order that his house and fields might be out of the water which at that time covered a large part of the county many months of the year. To this day the site of the farm is known as Moser Hill in section 21 of French Township. After arriving in the county the family spent three weeks camping under a big oak tree until their first log cabin could be completed. Gradually their labor transformed their surroundings into a farm and a good home and Peter lived there, reared his family, and late in life sold out and moved to Monroe Township, locating near Berne, where he and his wife both died when past seventy years of age.

Jacob G. Moser grew up on the old homestead in French Township and subsequently became its owner. He continued the improvement and cultivation where his father had left off and he was one of the substantial men of that locality. He died at the age of seventy-two. In that township he married Elizabeth Straub, who was also a native of Switzerland and about three years her husband's junior. She was a small child when her parents joined a colony bound for America, and this family also located in French Township of Adams County, where Mrs. Jacob Moser was reared and educated. She died at the age of fifty-two. She became the mother of a large family of children, seven sons and four daughters, two of whom died in childhood, while all the others grew up and married and had families of their own. Eight of them are still living.

Abraham J. Moser married at Berne Miss Barbara Lehman. She was born in Adams County in 1860 and is member of that prominent Lehman family which has done so much for the upbuilding of the country around Berne, and which at one time owned the land on which the village was founded. Mr. and Mrs. Moser are the parents of three children: Palmer, sixteen years old and a student in the Berne High School; Millard, who is in the grade schools; and Marcella, now six years of age. The family are all members of the Mennonite Church and Mr. Moser is a democrat in politics.

Frank Heller. Success has amply attended the efforts of Frank Heller, who has devoted himself with diligence and energy to the farming business nearly all his life. He is a representative of the progressive type of farming, and today is cultivating and handling the resources of the soil of a farm on which he was born. This farm is in Hartford Township, on Rural Route No. 1 out of Berne.

Mr. Heller was born there April 6, 1873, a son of George and Eliza (Gentis) Heller and a grandson of Levi and Catherine (Krebs) Heller. This is one of the oldest names in Adams County. His grandparents came here in 1839, locating in Nottingham Township, where for years they had the environment and the experiences of pioneers. George Heller was born in Clarke County, Ohio, on August 28, 1835, and was a small child when brought to Indiana. After reaching maturity he moved to Hartford Township, and in 1892 went to the Village of Berne, where he lived for a number of years, but finally returned to the vicinity of Linn Grove. George and Eliza Heller had a family of eight children, four of whom are still living. Jane is the widow of David Moeschberger; Mary is the wife of Benjamin Moeschberger of Hartford Township; and Emma is the wife of Harry Graham of Huntington County, Indiana.

Mr. Frank Heller's earlier and later associations have all been centered around the farm of eighty acres on which he was born and which he now owns. As a boy he attended the Linn Grove public schools and also had one term in a commercial course at Valparaiso College. He was one of the early stockholders of the Bank of Linn Grove, and for one year was cashier of that institution. Mr. Heller is doing well as a farmer and has reason to be well satisfied with his crops and with his equipment of livestock and other facilities with which he has surrounded himself.

In 1892 he married Miss Polina Gilgen, a native of Wells County, where in Harrison Township she grew up and attended the local schools. They have four children: Walter, who is now superintendent of the France Stone Company at Middle Point, Ohio, one of the largest plants of its kind in the United States; Reuben unmarried and still at home; Volney and Olga, both school children. The family are members of the

Evangelical Association at Linn Grove. Mr. Heller is a Modern Woodmen of America and in politics is a democrat.

Ralph W. Haifley. An enterprising, industrious young man, full of vim and push, Ralph W. Haifley of Craigville, Wells County, well-known as a successful contractor, has started out in life with fair prospects for a most prosperous future, his energy, ability, and good business tact bidding fair to place him ere long among the prominent men of his community. A native of Wells County, he was born in Rock Creek Township, Indiana, April 10, 1887, a son of Eli C. Haifley.

Martin Haifley, his paternal grandfather, came from Pennsylvania to Indiana in pioneer days, and was the first settler of Wells County. He located at what is now Bluffton, and in addition to becoming owner of much town property was proprietor of Kennegy Island. He was identified with the business interests of the place as a hardware merchant, and as a preacher in the Methodist Church looked after the spiritual welfare of the community. The land which he possessed was purchased by him from the Government.

Eli C. Haifley was brought up and educated in Wells County, of which he is still a resident, his home being north of Bluffton. His wife, whose maiden name was Emma Gettle, was born in Bluffton, Indiana, where her parents located on coming to this state from Pennsylvania. Six children were born of their union, as follows: William, Samuel, Charles, Ralph W., Rosa, and Anna.

Having acquired a practical knowledge of books in the public schools of Bluffton, Ralph W. Haifley was for a time variously employed, and in whatever pursuit he embarked was successful. For several years he has been actively engaged as a contractor, at the present time, in 1917, being actively associated with the drainage contracting business. In this branch of industry, Mr. Haifley has filled many large contracts in a highly satisfactory manner, his work being in every way acceptable and commendable.

Mr. Haifley married Cora Frugher, a daughter of William and Sarah Frugher, their marriage having been solemnized November 23, 1913. Three children have blessed their union, Irene, Joy, Justin, May, and William Eli. In his political affiliations Mr. Haifley is a stanch democrat.

Benjamin J. Waggoner has spent his active career as a general agriculturist and stock farmer in Root Township. His farm home, one of the best in that community, is endeared to him and other members of the family by many associations extending back into pioneer days. He succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, and it is land which was at one time owned by his maternal grandfather Benjamin Rice and by his great-grandfather Pillars, who acquired it direct from the Government.

Benjamin J. Waggoner was born at Monmouth in Adams County July 7, 1871, son of D. C. and Elizabeth C. (Rice) Waggoner. His father was for fourteen years proprietor of a general store in the Village of Monmouth, and on giving up the mercantile business returned to the farm. He was a man held in the highest respect for his many estimable qualities, was thorough in business, careful and methodical in the management of all his affairs, and all his neighbors and acquaintances were kindly disposed toward him.

His wife, Elizabeth C. Rice, was a daughter of Benjamin Rice, who was born in Virginia November 17, 1817, son of Sampson and Elizabeth Ferguson Rice, who were also natives of Virginia. From Virginia the

Rice family moved to Carroll County, Ohio, about 1827, and in 1836 when Benjamin was nineteen years of age they came among the first settlers of Adams County, Indiana. They arrived in this county on Christmas Day of that year. Two years later, on September 6, 1838, Benjamin Rice married Elizabeth Pillars, who was born April 18, 1817, and died April 23, 1846. Mrs. Elizabeth Waggoner was one of the four children of this marriage.

D. C. and Elizabeth Waggoner had five children: John C., unmarried and living in Chicago; William A., a single man living in Pennsylvania; Jessie, wife of Ed Luthman of Sturgeon Bay, Michigan; Molly, wife of Adam Brown of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Benjamin J.

On March 25, 1894, Benjamin J. Waggoner married Phoebe Martin, member of an old and prominent family of Adams County and daughter of Josephus and Elizabeth Martin. Her father, Josephus Martin, was born in Hampshire, Virginia, September 30, 1803. His parents were natives of the same state and his grandfather had settled there about the time of the Revolution. From Virginia the Waggoner family removed to Warren County, Ohio, Josephus accompanying them, and while living there on March 25, 1830, he married Catherine Summerfelt. She died in 1844 and in 1845 Josephus Martin married Elizabeth Deffenbaugh. Mrs. Waggoner's mother was born in Maryland in 1828. Mrs. Waggoner was the youngest of her father's twelve children. Her brother, Q. A. Martin, now deceased, was for a number of years proprietor of a general store at Geneva in Adams County and he left two sons and a daughter, and the daughter and her son now continue a general mercantile establishment at Geneva. Her brother Morton is still living on the old homestead in Hartford Township. Her sister Ellen married Daniel Pontius of Adams County, and has two children, Lizzie and Wesley Sherman. Her sister Emma married Adam Schaupp and lives at Pasadena, California, mother of Vera and Harold Schaupp. Her brother Morton married Bertha McCollen and has five children, Robert, Catherine, Lulu, Mildred and Thomas.

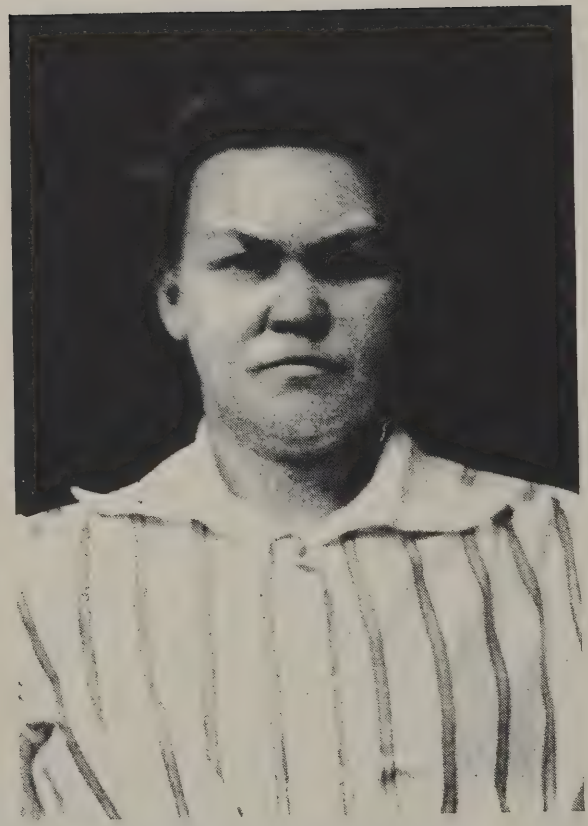
Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner have three children, named Harry, Jessie and Ralph.

Cornelius Schaefer has been a resident of Adams County thirty years, grew to manhood here, and has always commended himself to the confidence of his fellow citizens by his industry, integrity and ability in whatever position he has held. He is now rural carrier on Route No. 1 out of Geneva.

Mr. Schaefer was born in Darke County, Ohio, October 31, 1882, son of Gottlieb W. and Sarah E. (Stager) Schaefer, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They married in Darke County, lived on a farm there until 1889, and then removed to Adams County, Indiana, and were substantial and well known farming people here until 1917, when they retired and moved to a town home in Geneva. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the father is treasurer of the Masonic Lodge at Geneva. In politics he is a republican. There were two children, Barbara Ann and Cornelius. The daughter is the wife of Fred Hale and lives in Oklahoma.

Cornelius Schaefer was reared on a farm in Wabash Township, had his education in the common schools there and in 1900 graduated from the Geneva High School. For about twelve years after leaving school Mr. Schaefer worked in the oil fields around Geneva, and is a practical oil man in every detail of experience. A few years ago he took the examination for civil service and stood highest among twenty-four appli-

GEORGE INEICHEN



MRS. GEORGE INEICHEN

cants. Since May, 1916, he has been every day in the week on his route as a mail carrier.

Mr. Schaefer married Lola J. Ford of Adams County, Indiana. They have one child, Virginia C., now eight years of age and attending school at Geneva. Mrs. Schaefer is a member of the United Brethren Church.

Mr. Schaefer is present secretary of Geneva Lodge No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He has also served as keeper of records and seals in the Local Knights of Pythias Lodge. Politically he is independent. Mr. Schaefer and wife own one of the comfortable homes of Geneva.

GEORGE INEICHEN. It is probable that every stock man of this country who is handler or admirer of the Red Polled cattle knows by reputation at least the firm George Ineichen & Son of Geneva, Indiana. As a breeder and raiser of this fine stock Mr. Ineichen has a reputation far beyond the limits of Adams County. The "Cosy Ell Farm" is a model place of its kind and adaptation to the uses of modern stock raising and was the result of an exceptional degree of enterprise on the part of the firm George Ineichen & Son.

It can confidently be claimed for this firm that they are the most extensive breeders of Red Polled cattle in Indiana, and they have an international record. Their herd was declared the champion herd at the Chicago International Stock Show four years in succession, a distinction that no other herd enjoys in America. Their stock is shown in all the principal cities of the United States and never have they made an exhibit in which they have not won several first prize ribbons, medals and other honors. The Cosy Ell Farm is situated three and a quarter miles east of Geneva in Wabash township.

George Ineichen, senior member of the firm, was born in Ottawa County, Ohio, March 13, 1864, of Swiss parentage. He was one of the twelve children of Joseph A. and Jeneta Ana (Zurgirch) Ineichen. His parents came together from Switzerland to America in 1852, and settled in Ottawa County, Ohio, near Port Clinton. They reared their family in that locality until 1865, when they moved to Mercer County, Ohio. It was in Mercer County that George Ineichen grew to manhood and he acquired the rudiments of his education in the little brick schoolhouse which stands at the southeast corner of Mercer County Infirmary Farm. Of other education he boasts of none except what he has got and is still getting in the school of experience. Industry and ability have enabled him to take advantage of the better opportunities presented by life.

The years 1883-86, inclusive, he spent in Kansas, Colorado and the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. On returning to Ohio he worked on a farm two years. Concluding that it was not well for man to be alone, he succeeded in persuading Miss Katherine D. Puthoff to be of the same faith and companionship with him. They were married in October, 1888. After their marriage an inventory was struck and Mr. Ineichen found his possessions to consist of a horse and buggy and $84, while his wife had 37 cents. Renting a farm of eighty acres in Mercer County they attended farm sales and acquired another horse, wagon, plow, harrow, cupboard, table and stove, and by spring their debts had mounted upward to about four hundred dollars. By hard work and frugal business practice the accounts were strikingly reversed at the end of seven years. They were then possessed of a good renter's outfit of farm machinery, horses, cattle, poultry, a fine herd of thoroughbred swine, together with $700. The money they invested as their first payment on the old Moeser farm of eighty acres east of Celina, Ohio.

Two years later they sold it at a small profit and bought eighty acres three miles east of Wabash, Ohio. Three years of farm improvement on this place again induced some others to offer the Ineichens a remunerative price, and their next move was to Jay County, Indiana, where they improved two farms before coming to their present place in Adams County, which has been their home since 1907.

Mr. Ineichen has built six houses and eight barns, besides constructing many minor farm buildings. These structures have been erected on the several different farms above noted. He has always performed the chief mechanical labor himself. In explaining the reason for this Mr. Ineichen says that the first two houses he built were the product of his individual labor because he was too poor to hire a skilled carpenter. Experience and practice make perfect, and since his prosperity has enabled him to hire labor he has not had the patience to superintend the mechanical skill afforded and has preferred to do all his own building. The structures on the present Cosy Ell Farm speak for themselves as to the thoroughness of the architectural, designing and mechanical skill of Ineichen and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Ineichen are the parents of three sons and two daughters. Frank J., the oldest, is a graduate of the common schools, and is a successful farmer, looking after 120 acres across the road from his father's place. He has also done much as a stock breeder. He still lives at home and is the present chancellor commander of Geneva Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and is also a Mason.

Harvey S. Ineichen, the second son, and junior member of the firm, has probably gone farther than any of his brothers or even his father in the matter of progressive stock farming, and is a recognized expert in the breeding and handling of cattle and an authority on all points of excellence, especially in the Red Polled cattle. He is a graduate of the common schools and still lives on the old homestead. He is a past chancellor commander of Geneva Lodge, Knights of Pythias. Harvey Ineichen married Nellie Kerr of Jefferson Township, daughter of William Kerr. She was born in Jefferson Township, was educated in the public schools and is also a graduate in music.

Albert H., the third son, married Clara Lybarger and lives on a farm in Mercer County, Ohio. The two daughters are Jeannette and Mary, the former still at home. Mary is the wife of Ralph Pontius and lives at Hartford, Indiana. Mr. Pontius is a teacher.

In politics Mr. Ineichen is a democrat and has always affiliated with that party. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and a Mason, including the Royal Arch Chapter, and is past master of the Patrons of Husbandry.

August Gallmeier. Among the prosperous farmers of Adams County is August Gallmeier, who is actively engaged in his free and independent occupation in Preble Township, where he materially assists in maintaining the reputation of this part of Indiana as a superior agricultural and stock raising region. He was born in Preble Township, March 9, 1871, and has spent his life in this vicinity.

Mr. Gallmeier's parents, Conrad and Wilhelmina Gallmeier, were both born in Germany, and both came when children with their parents to the United States. After their marriage, they bought from the Government eighty acres of land in Preble Township, and there cleared and improved a valuable homestead. The father, who was held in high respect as a man and a citizen, died October 12, 1875, while yet in manhood's prime. He was a faithful member of the German Lutheran Church, which he served as a trustee for a number of years, and to which

his wife also belonged. She died in December, 1905. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Fred; Charles; William; August; Henry, deceased; Louise; and Sophia.

Brought up and educated in Preble Township, August Gallmeier was early initiated into the mysteries of farming, which he early selected for an occupation. Having profited by his early knowledge and experience while employed by others, Mr. Gallmeier has met with unquestioned success in his undertakings. The greater part of his farm of eighty acres is under a good state of culture, and its improvements, including a commodious and conveniently arranged residence, are of a good, practical, and substantial character.

On October 14, 1897, Mr. Gallmeier was united in marriage with Louise Berning, a daughter of Ferdinand and Sophia Berning, who were born and reared in Adams County, Indiana, as were their children, eleven in number, as follows: Minnie, Henry, Louise, Mary, Amelia, Sophia, Christina, Charles, Annie, Flora, and Pauline. Five children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gallmeier, namely: Rosa, deceased; Freeda; Martin; Otto, deceased; and Velma, deceased. In his political affiliations, Mr. Gallmeier is a democrat, and religiously he and his family are members of the German Lutheran Church.

George W. Zimmerman. Some of the first clearings made in the wilderness of Washington Township of Adams County were effected by the exertions of the Zimmerman family. It is an honored pioneer name. As a family they have been exceedingly industrious, people of splendid business judgment and valuable to the local citizenship as homemakers and straightforward, honest citizens. One of the present representatives of the family still lives in Washington Township in the person of George W. Zimmerman, whose own career has been in keeping with the high standard set by his forefathers and who is one of the excellent agriculturists of that district.

The Zimmermans as the name indicates are of German origin. The great-grandfather of George W. Zimmerman on coming to America settled in Virginia and spent the rest of his years near Harpers Ferry. He married and among his sons and daughters was Eli Zimmerman, who was born near Harpers Ferry and when a young man moved to Ohio. From there he came as a pioneer to Washington Township, settling in section 2, where he acquired a section of land and erected a log cabin shelter. It is said that his first crop was four acres of corn. His possessions comprised some of the best black walnut timber land along St. Mary's River. Year by year by persevering industry he cleared his land until 400 acres were under the plow. Later he left his first homestead and moved nearer Decatur, at a time when that town contained only three log houses. Here he made his home until his death on October 29, 1878. He was one of the oldest pioneers and one of the most respected citizens of Adams County, and by his thrift and energy had accumulated property which made him regarded as one of the county's wealthy citizens. All that he had was the fruit of honorable dealing and strict integrity and the comforts of his later years merely repaid the hardships and privations he had endured in early life. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity and of the Presbyterian Church. His land accumulations at one time totaled more than 600 acres. He married in Adams County Polly Smith, a native of Fayette County, Ohio, and she died in Adams County March 24, 1871. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom grew up and married and had families of their own and all but one lived to mature years. The only one of these children now living is Washington Kerns of St. Mary's Township.

The next generation of the family is represented by Eli Zimmerman, Jr., who was born on the old Zimmerman farm in Adams County, October 23, 1842. This farm is now locally known as the Edward Ahr farm. His early life was spent in a rustic environment, and with only such advantages as were supplied by the schools of Washington Township. Soon after he reached his majority and toward the close of the Civil war he went to the front with a Union regiment, but was never engaged in any important battles. After the war on January 7, 1867, he married Miss Melinda Drayer, who was born in Pennsylvania and spent her early life and received her schooling at Reading. When a young woman she came to Adams County, and after her marriage she and her husband started out as farmers and their mutual labors enabled them to accumulate a fine property in Washington Township, comprising over 1,000 acres of land, some of the best soil in that vicinity. Eli Zimmerman had the same purposeful activity and energy that marked other members of the family and was a man of influence and substance. Politically he was a democrat. He died at the old farm February 10, 1894, at the age of fifty-one. His widow, who was born in 1848, is now living at Fort Wayne and still possesses all her active faculties. She is a member of the Baptist Church. Three children were born to their marriage, Zachariah dying in early childhood. The other two are Isaac W. and George W., the former was a native of Adams County, spent many years as a farmer here and died as a result of blood poisoning at Fort Wayne April 1, 1916. He left no surviving children.

George W. Zimmerman was born at the old home of his father in Washington Township November 20, 1869. His early years were spent on the farm which he still owns and operates. This farm comprises 236 and a fraction of acres, and it has undergone many improvements since Mr. Zimmerman began applying his strength and judgment to its cultivation and management. Some years ago he erected a beautiful two-story modern ten-room house, which is one of the most complete and convenient country residences in the entire county. While he has one of the large farms of the county, Mr. Zimmerman is a thoroughly intensive agriculturist, and works and tends his crops with as much method and thoroughness as many who have much smaller holdings.

Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Jessie Burwell, who was born at Bluffton, Indiana, thirty-seven years ago and grew up and received her education in that city. She is a member of one of the noted pioneer families of Wells County, the Burwells having located there fully seventy years ago. Her parents were George and Jane (Reed) Burwell, both natives of Ohio, but were married in Bluffton. Her father made a splendid record as a soldier of the Civil war. He went out with an Indiana regiment, saw service in many severe battles, and in one engagement was capturned and put in a Confederate prison. After many months of tortuous captivity he was released and came home nearly starved. In one battle he had lost an eye, but in spite of these handicaps and misfortunes he lived a successful and prosperous life and died in Wells County July 14, 1891, at the age of fifty-one. He was born in Mercer County, Ohio, in 1840, and his wife was born there August 19, 1840, and died at the home of Mrs. Zimmerman April 19, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Burwell were active Baptists and he was a democrat in politics. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman are also members of the Baptist Church and he keeps up the political affiliation of his forefathers. Fraternally he is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Philip L. Macklin, a successful civil engineer at Decatur, formerly a teacher, is perhaps most widely known over the county through his

valuable public service rendered during a four years term as county surveyor.

Mr. Macklin represents fine old pioneer stock of Eastern Indiana. He was born in Wabash Township of Adams County June 2, 1882, and grew up on his father's farm. He made the best of his advantages in school, and at the age of sixteen he gained his first experience in public life as deputy assessor of the township under his father. He served as deputy assessor two years under his father and four years under T. P. Hollingsworth. For five years of his early life he was a successful teacher, and taught his first school in District No. 5, known as the Fravel School. With this varied experience to his credit he came to Decatur and for 3½ years was a member of the firm Vance, Hite & Macklin. He was called from that business by his election in November, 1912, to the office of county surveyor. The next four years were a busy administration and he was regarded as one of the most competent men who ever filled that office in Adams County. For the past six years Mr. Macklin has been more or less actively engaged in private practice as a civil engineer. He is one of the highly popular citizens of the county and since early manhood has been a leader in the democratic party.

The Macklins originally are of the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch. His grandfather, Philip Macklin, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, about ninety years ago. He married Mahala Cole, also a native of Fairfield County. They were married in Jay County, Indiana, where their respective parents had settled in pioneer times, when all that section of country was a wilderness, the Macklins and Coles clearing up land from a forest condition. The Macklins were leaders among the Methodist Protestants of that community and the first schoolhouse and the first church in their neighborhood was built largely through their instrumentality. The church was built on the Macklin farm and the schoolhouse nearby. Both are known to this day as the Macklin Church and the Macklin Schoolhouse. One member of the family, Jacob Macklin, was for many years a preacher in the old Macklin Church. Grandfather Philip Macklin lived out his life in Jay County, where he died at the age of seventy-six and his wife at sixty-two. He was a trustee of the Methodist Protestant Church from the time of its organization and in politics was a democrat, a brand of politics that has been kept pretty well in the family ever since.

The father of the former county surveyor was Philip A. Macklin, who was born in Jay County, Indiana, July 7, 1858. He married in that county May Sibarry, who was born there in March, 1861, in Bear Creek Township. She is of English ancestry. P. A. Macklin after his marriage bought a farm near the Macklin Church in Bear Creek Township but two years later moved to Wabash Township of Adams County, where he bought the farm on which Philip L. Macklin was born. In 1886 the family bought a farm owned by a Mr. Stover. At that time its improvements consisted of a log cabin, and its development into a fine and productive homestead is largely due to the exertions of the Macklin family. It is still owned by the Macklin Estate. On the old farm the father died October 23, 1908. His widow is still living, making her home at Geneva, Indiana. The parents were always members of the Macklin Methodist Protestant Church. P. A. Macklin served four years as township trustee and was assessor six years, and in 1907 was candidate for county auditor.

P. L. Macklin was the oldest son and third child among ten children. Two of them died in infancy and one lost his life at the age of

eleven years by being kicked by a colt. Seven of the family are still living, all of them married except two.

P. L. Macklin married at Decatur Miss Lola P. Jackson. She was born at Decatur in March, 1883, and is a graduate of the city high school and was a teacher for two years before her marriage. Her grandfather, D. O. Jackson, is a well remembered pioneer of Decatur, where he was a leader in establishing manufacturing interests. Her parents, Oliver and Laura (Bowers) Jackson, are both natives of Adams County and are still living where they began housekeeping at the time of their marriage. They are active in the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Jackson is a democrat.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Macklin comprise the following children: Oliver Wendell P., born May 28, 1905; Robert Israel, born September 28, 1908; Mary A., born January 11, 1910; Ann E., born May 23, 1911; Ruth Isabel, born March 4, 1913; and Richard J., born July 27, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Macklin are active members of the Presbyterian Church. At the age of twenty-one he became identified with Masonry and is a member of the lodge and chapter at Decatur and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Geneva and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Decatur.

John C. Moran is one of the men who have contributed the resources of a fine mind and of an equally fine character to the prestige and activities of the Adams County bar. While he was making his maiden efforts as a lawyer he attracted the attention of older attorneys and has been steadily rising in esteem and in the extent and importance of the business entrusted to his care.

He was admitted to the bar in 1897, twenty-one years ago. Mr. Moran was educated in the public schools of Adams County, attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada, the Tri-State Normal School at Angola, Indiana, Valparaiso University and spent two terms in the Portland Normal School. At the age of nineteen he entered the role of teacher, teaching his first term in Mercer County, Ohio. He taught seven winter terms, four of them in the Cottonwood School of French Township, Adams County.

Even before coming to Adams County he had begun the study of law, privately, and after leaving the school room he entered the office of R. H. Hartford at Portland, and completed his reading there.

Mr. Moran opened his first office at Berne in Adams County in 1897 and got a good start as a lawyer while in that village. In 1900 he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney, and by re-election filled the office three terms, six years. It is doubtful if that office ever had a better administration than in Mr. Moran's hands. Among other important cases which he prosecuted was one of the best remembered murder trials of the local courts. This was the Osborn Busenbark case, which occupied the attention of courts and jury for three weeks. One feature of Mr. Moran's record in the prosecuting attorney office is that he never drew a defective affidavit or indictment throughout his three terms. A number of years ago he was admitted to practice in the State Supreme Court, and has carried a number of trials to that tribunal.

Mr. Moran is junior member of the firm Peterson & Moran. His law partner, Shafer Peterson, is the Nestor of the Adams County bar, having been admitted to practice November 18, 1874. He has distinguished himself by capable service and is a man of recognized ability in the law and of most kindly generous nature. He read law with Judge Bobo and also his uncle, R. S. Peterson, two years before admission. He had prior to that taught school. Shafer Peterson is a son of Isaac Peterson

and a grandson of William Peterson. Isaac Peterson was born in Stark County, Ohio, in 1829, and was thirteen years of age when the family came to the wilderness of Adams County in 1842. William Peterson was one of the pioneers who cleared up new homes in this section of the country. Isaac Peterson followed farming, and was a successful stock raiser.

Mr. Moran has served as chairman of the County Democratic Committee for two years, and has always taken an active and public spirited part in politics and in local affairs.

Mr. Moran was born in Jefferson Township of Adams County, son of Thomas and Anna (Fahey) Moran. His parents were both natives of County Galway, Ireland, with a long line of Irish ancestors behind them, nearly all of them farmers by occupation. In 1865 Thomas Moran brought his family to America, just at the close of the Civil war. The voyage was made over rough seas in a sailing vessel, and from Castle Garden they came on west to Preble County, Ohio, and not long afterwards settled in Jefferson Township of Adams County, Indiana. Most of the children were born in this county, John C. Moran being fourth among them. The other children were: Winifred, who died in 1896, the wife of Joseph Fosty; Mary, wife of P. K. Kinney; Anna, widow of T. F. Golden; James J.; Bridget, wife of James Kinney; Margaret; Patrick; and Marcus. Mr. Moran's mother died in 1889. His father is still living at the age of eighty-four, with home in Decatur, and bears the weight of years gracefully and is still vigorous in mind and body. All the family have been active in the Catholic Church.

John C. Moran married in Adams County Rose Yager, a native of the county. Her parents were German people who settled in Adams County in early days, and cleared up the land which they used as a farm. Her father, Charles Yager, died in the county when about fifty years of age and his widow is now living at three score in Berne. Both were members of the Protestant faith. Mr. and Mrs. Moran are active in St. Mary's Catholic Church, and have liberally supported the church and all its causes. He has served ten years as church trustee. Mr. Moran is a charter member of the Knights of Columbus and is affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men and Lodge No. 993, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He and his wife have two children: Margaret, aged fourteen, attending the parochial schools, and Richard, now seven years of age.

William H. Tieman. In the county where he was born and reared and where the family has been represented from earliest pioneer times, William H. Tieman has made his own industry and enterprise count for success in the agricultural activities of Root Township, and everywhere in that section his name is spoken with the respect it deserves.

Mr. Tieman was born in Root Township, December 2, 1860, a son of William and Angel (Schultz) Tieman. His parents were natives of the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, and in 1839 came to America and lived for a short time in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A few years later they invaded the wilderness of Adams County, and the father acquired a small tract of forty acres of Government land in Root Township. They found it a difficult task to make the land supply them with all they needed in the way of provisions and shelter for their numerous household, but the father possessed the true German grit and persistence, and worked steadily until he had most of his land cleared and well improved before his death, which occurred in 1861, when his son William was only an infant. The family had lived for a number of

years in a log cabin and the father had completed a new dwelling just before his death. The children were: Sophia, who married Lew Keldewey; Louise, who became the wife of Henry Weitfeldt; Margaret, who married Edward Ey; Henrietta, who became the wife of Henry Hesemeyer; Henry, now deceased; Frederick, who married Louise Rippe; and William H.

The mother survived her husband more than thirty years and continued to live on the old homestead until her death on February 13, 1895. Both parents now rest in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery of Root Township. All the family connections have been members of that church.

William H. Tieman spent his boyhood at home with his mother, was educated in the parochial and public schools, and he bought his present farm in Mary, 1893, largely from the fruits of his own enterprise. Part of it has been cleared by his labors. All the improvements, a credit to the owner, were placed there by his own hands and one might travel far and not see a better farm than that of Mr. Tieman. He has two of the best barns in the township and also a commodious residence.

On April 21, 1887, six years before coming to his present home, Mr. Tieman married Miss Louise Gerke, of Root Township. Her brothers and sisters are: Annie, wife of Charles Phoeler; William, who married Henrietta Bohnke; Caroline, unmarried; Hugo, who married Ellanora Holle; and Ida, wife of Chris Swartz.

Mr. and Mrs. Tieman have four children, three sturdy sons and one daughter, Charles, Harold, Harvey and Ida. All have received the advantages of the local public schools, while Harold spent one term in the high school at Decatur. He is now serving in United States army. All the sons are of military age and all have registered subject to draft for the United States army.

Frank W. Gordon. Among the prominent and brilliant lawyers of Wells County none is more versatile, talented or well equipped for the work of his profession than Frank W. Gordon, who maintains his home and business headquarters at Bluffton. Throughout his career as an able attorney and well fortified counselor he has, by reason of unimpeachable conduct and close observance of the unwritten code of professional ethics, gained the admiration and respect of his fellow members of the bar, in addition to which he commands a high place in the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

Frank W. Gordon was born in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, Indiana, August 21, 1876, and he is descended from a fine old Scottish ancestry. John Gordon, his father, was born in Scotland, and his education consisted of Bible study. At the tender age of ten years he began to work, and in his eighteenth year he immigrated to America. He was accompanied by his father, then eighty years of age, and the old gentleman died in Wells County four years later, aged eighty-four years. After his arrival in Wells County John Gordon was variously occupied, working on a farm and later on the plank road constructed between Bluffton, Ft. Wayne, Huntington and Warren. He saved as much money as possible and invested it in real estate, buying a fine farm in Rock Creek Township. He and his wife are both living, and they reside on this farm, where all their children were born and reared. Mrs. Gordon, whose maiden name was Catherine Brown, was born in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, whence she came to Wells County with her mother at the age of three years. She grew to maturity here and was educated in the public schools. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and besides Frank W. they are as

follows: James F., William D., John O. and Robert S. are all farmers in Rock Creek Township; Nancy J. is the wife of Isaac W. Decker, of Rock Creek Township; Fannie E. married Aaron Edris, of Lancaster Township; and Jennie is the wife of Robert L. Moore, of Rock Creek Township.

Frank W. Gordon passed his boyhood days on his father's farm, attended the district schools in the winter time and in summer assisted in the numerous duties connected with farm life. In 1894 he was matriculated as a student in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, and he was graduated in that well-known institution as a member of the class of 1898, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then taught school for one year and in the fall of 1899 entered the state university, in the law department of which he was graduated in 1902, as a Bachelor of Law. He immediately began the practice of law as a member of a firm of Todd & Gordon and this mutually agreeable partnership alliance continued until September, 1907, when it was dissolved. Since that time Mr. Gordon has practiced law by himself and he is well known as a reliable and conscientious attorney. He represents a number of local corporations, among them being W. B. Brown Company. Mr. Gordon is a member of the board of directors of the Public Drug Company, which has stores at Bluffton, Decatur and Huntington, and he is a stockholder in the following organizations: The W. B. Brown Company, the Union Savings & Trust Company, and the Studebaker Grain & Seed Company.

November 8, 1903, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gordon to Miss Josephine Mills, a daughter of L. C. Mills and a native of Wells County. Mrs. Gordon is a talented musician, being a graduate of the conservatory of music at Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Gordon is a republican in politics, warmly advocating the party principles and he has been active in local and state politics. He has devoted himself assiduously to his profession, yet finds time to participate in the furtherance of all matters tending to promote the general welfare. In Masonic circles he is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, Free and Accepted Masons; is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason; and is likewise affiliated with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Ft. Wayne. As a man he is thoroughly conscientious, of undoubted integrity, affable and courteous in manner, and he has a host of friends and few, if any, enemies.

David Franklin Teeple. Statesmen and students of industry often refer to transportation as the greatest and most indispensable element of modern civilization, but too often the transportation system is made to include only that traffic borne on railroads or by water carriers. Not less vital to the efficiency and working of the general system is the traffic that goes on daily in the streets of cities and towns, and that could hardly be cut off with any less disastrous results than the stoppage of railroad communication. It is necessary to remember these points in estimating the extent of the services and appreciating the value of such a local business man as Mr. David Teeple of Decatur.

For over thirty years Mr. Teeple has been engaged in the draying and transfer business at Decatur. He has carried merchandise back and forth over the streets, from railroads to store, from house to house, and is in a position to appreciate the changes made in the local streets perhaps better than any other citizen. In early days he carted goods over streets paved principally with mud, though in places cobblestones furnished something like reliable footing. At the present time his automobile trucks and horse vehicles traverse many blocks

of fine pavement. He has a large amount of money invested in equipment. He has two automobile trucks, one 3½ ton and the other two ton capacity, and also has three large horse trucks. He handles practically all the service for the three railway companies. The only exception to his continuous service of thirty years was one year when he turned his business over to another party. Mr. Teeple owns a large lot on North First Street and there he has his modern ten-room house, and also a large brick storage and horse barn.

Mr. Teeple was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, July 7, 1869, but in 1875, at the age of six years, his parents came to Decatur, where his life since then has been spent. He is a son of Thomas H. and Delana (Springer) Teeple, both natives of Lancaster County, Ohio. They married in Van Wert County, and for over forty years have lived in Adams County, Indiana. His father was for many years a railway employee, also for a time was in the draying business, and though now seventy years of age is still sprightly and active and is doing good service as a crossing watchman for the Erie Railway at Decatur. His wife died about ten years ago, when sixty years of age. They were Evangelical Church people, and in politics the father is a republican, principles which he probably inherited as a result of his service as a soldier of the Union army. He was in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Indiana Infantry, was in many battles, had many narrow escapes, was once slightly wounded but was never absent from duty or roll call on account of injury or sickness. He and his wife had eleven children, and David F. and three sisters are still living, all married.

In Decatur David F. Teeple married Agnes Reardon. She was born in Van Wert County about seven years after her husband, but grew up and was educated in Decatur. Her parents died in this city many years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple had thirteen children, one of whom died in infancy. They are Louisa, David, Naomi, Marcella, Leo, Aurena, Letitia, Josephine, Lorena, Helen, Franklin, Edward Anthony and Anthony Edward, twins. The only one married is Louisa, wife of Martin Braton, of Decatur, and they have a son, Robert. The son David drives a truck for his father. Naomi is a student in the eighth grade, Marcella in the seventh grade, Leo in the fifth grade, and Aurena in the third grade. The family are all active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Teeple is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, and he and his wife are members of the Catholic Benevolent League of Indiana. Politically Mr. Teeple is a republican.

Michael Miller, representing a family of long residence in Adams County, was formerly actively engaged in farming, but for the past fifteen years has been one of the leading road and street contractors in this section of Indiana.

Fifteen years ago he built his first road by contract in Washington Township. It was a three mile stretch of macadam turnpike. A little later he constructed another three miles of the same material a short distance from Decatur. Since then he has taken many contracts, representing improvements of many thousands of dollars, and has built roads and streets both in and out of Decatur. In 1914 he built the street, including curbs and sidewalks, on Tarva Street in Decatur. He also curbed Russell and Oak streets, and put down a mile of sidewalk and curbing on Third Street.

Mr. Miller was born in Huron County, Ohio, August 17, 1856, and was eight months old when his parents removed from that county to Adams County, Indiana, settling in Washington Township, where Michael Miller grew up and received his early education. He is a son

of Mathias and Barbara (Haine) Miller, both of whom were born in Germany. The father was born about 1820, and was of a Catholic family. They came to the United States when young people, and the father made several trips back and forth to Germany. On his last trip to this country his young bride accompanied him, and they married in New York City. About their first location after marriage was in Decatur, Indiana, but a few years later they moved to Huron County, Ohio. Returning to Adams County in 1857, they bought a tract of wooded land in section 22 of Washington Township, and they put up with the simple comforts of a log cabin home for a number of years. The farm is still owned by the family and represents a high degree of development since the Millers first took possession sixty-seven years ago.

Mathias Miller was a veteran of the Union army. In 1862 he joined Company K of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry. He was one of 300 that were recruited in and around Decatur at that time. He saw two years and nine months of active service and finally in the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, was shot, the ball passing below the upper rib and out through the shoulder blade. It was a wound that incapacitated him for further duty and he was finally discharged. He recovered his health and strength, and became a very energetic and prosperous farmer in Adams County. He lived there to the fullness of years and died at the age of eighty-three, his wife passing away at seventy-seven. They were active members and supporters of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur. Mathias Miller was a war republican but finally joined the democratic party.

Mr. Michael Miller was one of a family of seven children. His sister Mary died at the age of seventeen and his sister Barbara at twenty-one. Five of the family are still living, all married.

In Washington Township Michael Miller married Miss Mary Gass, only living child of John P. Gass. John P. Gass, who died in Washington Township at the age of eighty-two, was an Adams County pioneer. He was born in France November 24, 1813, a son of Henry and Catherine Gass. In 1828 the family came to America, landing in New York City, and for about nine years lived in Oswego County, New York, and spent a similar period in Wayne County, Ohio. In Wayne County John P. Gass married in April, 1846, Miss Catherine Moine. After the birth of their first child, Eugene, the Gass family in 1847 came to Adams County and settled in the woods of section 33, Washington Township John P. Gass built a log cabin there and moved his family into the house before it had windows or doors. His first crop was five acres of wheat, but in the course of time he had most of his land cleared and was reckoned as one of the most prosperous and substantial farmers of the township. The old Gass farm comprised 200 acres. His wife died there on January 12, 1883. John P. Gass was a democrat and he and his wife were pioneer members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. John P. Gass when he came to Adams County had only a team, wagon and $20 in money, but long before his death his hard work and good management had enabled him to accumulate a good estate and he was also honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens, serving as road supervisor and in various positions of trust and responsibility.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller became the parents of three children. One son died in infancy. Bertha E. married Tony Hackman and died at the age of twenty-four years and three months. Christian A. died at the age of fourteen. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church and he is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

ANDREW M. HENRY. The heaviest burdens of the world's work are carried by a number of individuals whose chief distinction rests in the fact that they have been conscientious, industrious and faithful workers at a given task through a long period of years. No man in Adams County deserves greater credit on this score than Andrew M. Henry, a veteran railroad man who has probably constructed, repaired and maintained more railroad tracks in this county than any other individual. He is at present roadmaster for the Fort Wayne and Decatur Traction Company.

Mr. Henry was born at the old Quaker Town of Salem, Ohio, March 13, 1856, but when he was six months of age his parents moved to Allen County, Indiana. He grew up on a scarcely developed farm in the wilderness of that section, got his education in the local schools, and at Sheldon, Indiana, learned the trade of blacksmith and horse shoer. For four years he followed this as a journeyman occupation at Hoagland in Allen County, and was a blacksmith seven years before he took up railroad service. He began railroading with the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company about the time that road was constructed. For several years he worked under a foreman, and was then made section foreman and for twenty-six years held that office with headquarters at Hoagland. As the roadbed was new Mr. Henry had heavy responsibilities, but he kept the track in good condition, the grades true, and looked after all the endless detail of the work until he had his section as highly developed and in as perfect a condition as any part of the entire system. Mr. Henry left the Grand Rapids and Indiana after more than a quarter of a century of faithful service to become roadmaster for the Fort Wayne and Decatur Traction Company at the time the roadbed was constructed. He helped build it thirteen years ago and has since been employed in keeping the property in first class condition, and his superior officers recognize and have complimented him many times upon the thoroughness of his work and his service.

Mr. Henry is a son of David Henry, who was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, and there married Mary Beckley, of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. When they came to Allen County, Indiana, he acquired a tract of wild land of 400 acres. Their purchase represented the second transfer of this land from the time it left the United States Government. David Henry with the aid of his wife and stalwart sons improved this into a good farm. He and his wife had three children who were born in Pennsylvania: William, deceased; John, who served as a soldier in the Civil war; and Abraham, who died in infancy. The children born to the parents in Ohio were: Samuel, Aaron and Andrew. William and John both lived to be seventy-three years of age, were married and had children. The other three are all married and all of them are successful farmers except Andrew.

At Hoagland, Indiana, Andrew M. Henry married Malancy C. Harrod, daughter of Joseph Harrod, now deceased. Her parents were natives of Ohio and for many years were farming people in Allen County, Indiana. Mrs. Henry was born on a farm three miles north of Hoagland July 3, 1853, and grew up there and lived in that community until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Henry are active members of the Methodist Church. Though not a farmer, he still owns eighty acres of the old family homestead in Allen County, a portion of the 400 acres which his father bought more than half a century ago. Mr. and Mrs. Henry are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in politics he is a republican.

Their only son, Enos A., has made a brilliant record as an engineer.

He was born at Hoagland, Indiana, November 8, 1884, and was educated in the engineering department of the Ohio Northern University at Ada. After graduating he was put on the engineering staff of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company and subsequently served with various other railroads. He was employed in railroad engineering in North Carolina and was also city engineer at Newbern, North Carolina. From there he went to Georgia and is now connected with the Southern Engineering Company of Augusta. He married in North Carolina Beulah Simpson, and they have a son, Andrew Max.

Mrs. Edith (Sprunger) Lehmann. A woman of much force of character, generous and hospitable, Mrs. Edith (Sprunger) Lehmann has spent her entire life in Monroe Township, Adams County, where her birth occurred July 9, 1864, and enjoys to the utmost the esteem and confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Her father, Daniel Sprunger, a native of Switzerland, was a son of John and Barbara Sprunger, who lived and died in the country of their birth. Coming to the United States when young, he spent a few years in Wayne County, Ohio, remaining there until after his marriage. He subsequently came with his family to Adams County, Indiana, and having purchased 160 acres of land in Monroe Township immediately began the pioneer labor of clearing a homestead from the wilderness. Working energetically, he spent many of the best years of his life in redeeming from its primitive wildness a portion of this beautiful country, uprooting the trees, plowing the sod and helping to make a broad track for the advance of civilization. He subsequently sold eighty acres of his farm, but retained the remainder of his estate, and there resided until his death, December 25, 1916. He married Barbara Lehmann, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and died on the home farm in Monroe Township August 1, 1872.

Mrs. Edith Lehmann, the special subject of this sketch, was educated in the district schools, and under her mother's wise instruction became accomplished in the domestic arts. On October 24, 1883, she was united in marriage with Judith Lehmann, a son of Abraham and Barbara (Zuercher) Lehmann. Twelve children blessed their union, namely: Levi, born August 8, 1884; Amelia, born November 19, 1885; Omer, born August 20, 1888, married Celestine Depp, of Adams County, on May 18, 1913; Caroline, born December 4, 1889; Alice, born August 1, 1893, married October 17, 1915; Leo Lehmann, of Adams County; Elizabeth, born April 12, 1895; Gertrude, born December 7, 1896, married, November 29, 1917, Clinton Soldner, of Adams County; Albert, deceased, was born March 18, 1899; Wesley, born December 18, 1900; Laura Anna, born February 8, 1902; and Horace David, born January 2, 1910. Mrs. Lehmann is an active and consistent member of the Mennonite Church.

Alphons C. Kohne. No more honored nor respected citizen might be pointed out in Adams County than Alphons C. Kohne, a retired farmer now living at Decatur. Mr. Kohne has spent many years in this county, has prospered as a farmer, has been a capable business man, a straightforward citizen and has gained a reputation for wisdom and public spirited efforts among the community which has so long known him.

Mr. Kohne was born in Washington Township of Adams County May 19, 1855. He is a son of Arthur and Elizabeth (Kiaphke) Kohne, both natives of Hanover, Germany, and of Catholic ancestry. Their parents spent all their lives in the old country. Arthur Kohne was born

in 1806 and came to Indiana in pioneer times. He located on a new farm in the woods of Washington Township and brought to that wilderness home the bride of his first marriage. Her maiden name was Wilhelmina Dirk, and she died a few years after their marriage. She was a sister of Henry Dirk, with whom Arthur Kohne had come to Adams County in the early '30s. He married his second wife in New York City. With her he turned his attention to the business of making a home among the woods of Washington Township and erected a log cabin in section 8, on the forty acres which comprised his first farm. He cleared up this land, increased it by subsequent purchases, and in the course of time had a farm of 240 acres which would bear favorable comparison with any similar size place in the entire county. He was one of the capable farmers of his day and a man whose character was above reproach. He died October 27, 1882, at the age of seventy-six. His wife, who was born in 1822, died in 1867, aged forty-five. Their names are especially associated with St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur, and they were among the first members and had much to do with the building and keeping up of the organization in its early days. Arthur Kohne and John Closs walked the entire distance to Cincinnati in order to collect money to enable the congregation to complete the first log church edifice. Both parents remained devout communicants of this church all the rest of their days. Arthur Kohne was also a trustee of his township at a time when the township affairs were entrusted to a board of three trustees. One of his associates in that office was Mr. Rider. Politically he was a democrat. He and his wife had four children: Mary, Bernard J., Anna and Alphons C.

Alphons C. Kohne grew up on the old farm, attended the country schools, and on reaching manhood launched into the business of farming, which he followed steadily until he retired. In his native township Mr. Kohne married Mary H. Geels. She was born in Holland October 12, 1865, and at the age of six years came to the United States and to Allen County, Indiana, with her parents, George and Henrietta Geels. Her parents afterwards moved to Adams County, where her mother died in middle life. Her father finally went to live with his sons in the State of Arkansas and died there at the age of seventy-four. The Geels family were all Catholics. Mrs. Kohne was the only daughter, her five brothers all growing to manhood and all married and have children.

Mr. Kohne has taken more or less active part in democratic politics in Adams County. He is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and he and his family are all worshippers in St. Mary's Catholic Church. Concerning his children the following record is made: Ida I., the oldest, married Charles Cole, a hardware merchant at Hamilton, Indiana, where he is in business with his father; they have two sons, James and Roger. Bertha, the second daughter, was educated in the local parochial schools and is a graduate in music from Holy Cross Academy at Fort Wayne. She lives at home and is a teacher in Decatur. Estella is now known as Sister Frances Clare, a Sister of St. Agnes, and has charge of some branch of hospital service at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Agnes is a graduate of St. Mary's parochial school at Decatur and of the Sacred Heart Convent and is an accomplished musician, but is now employed as clerk in a drug store. Raymond B. is a graduate of the local parochial schools and afterward was in business at Decatur with Horace Gallow, a druggist, until called into the National army. He is now stationed at Camp Shelby, at Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Ambrose after finishing the parochial schools en-

tered St. Joseph's College near Rensselaer, Indiana, where he is still pursuing his studies. Gerald, the youngest of the family, is still a schoolboy in St. Mary's parochial school.

HENRY KRICK. A prominent, prosperous, and well-to-do citizen of Decatur, Henry Krick, who was for many years president of the Decatur Tile Company, is now living retired from active pursuits, having by means of persevering industry and good management acquired a handsome competency. A son of John Krick, Jr., he was born October 24, 1845, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, coming from thrifty German ancestry.

The immigrant ancestor of the family to which he belongs came from Germany to America in 1731 and settled near Reading, Pennsylvania, where he acquired title to 400 acres of land, on which he was engaged in farming until his death. He reared a family of thirteen children, most of whom lived and died in that locality, and there, in Berks County, many of his descendants are living, one of whom owns and occupies 160 acres of the original Krick homestead. The Krick family is well known there as industrious and prosperous people and prominent in business circles.

John Krick, Sr., Mr. Krick's grandfather, was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and spent his seventy-seven years of early life on the home farm. He and his good wife were active members of the German Reformed Church.

John Krick, Jr., one of a family of nine children, was born at Sinking Spring, Berks County, in 1812, and was there engaged in farming and stock raising during his life, dying in 1880. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the German Reformed Church, to which his family also belonged. He married Elizabeth Schleter, who was born and reared in Berks County, as were her parents, John and Mary (Jackson) Schleter. Of their union five sons and two daughters were born, four of whom are now living, and are married and have families.

Leaving school at the age of thirteen years, Henry Krick subsequently assisted his father on the home farm for about six years. Starting westward then, with the hope of bettering his fortunes, he arrived at Decatur, Indiana, January 16, 1865. The place was then small, with but few industries established. He had previously learned the tinner's trade, but finding no opportunity then to follow it he was engaged for two years in sawing wood with a buck saw. He afterwards worked for two and a half years at his trade, receiving $80 a year and his board. Mr. Krick then became agent for a hardware and implement store, and for a number of years carried on a good business among the farming population, selling goods in the country.

Enterprising and resourceful, Mr. Krick embarked in a business new in the county, being the first one in the locality to buy and ship eggs and farm produce to the city markets. With the limited capital of $85 he bought a horse and wagon, running in debt for them $20, plus the cost of his first shipment of eggs. From 1879 until 1894 he traveled the roads, many of which in those days were nearly impassable, but, however rough or muddy, he never gave up, pulling himself and load through in some way. From 1878 until 1882 he served as sheriff of Adams County, being the youngest man at that time ever elected to that office.

In the meantime Mr. Krick established a brick kiln, and in 1882 embarked in the manufacture of brick, and for ten years manufactured all the bricks used in the erection of public buildings in the city

with the exception of the Decatur courthouse, and also shipped bricks to various places for making sidewalks. In 1892 Mr. John Tyndall, our associate editor, and a Mr. Meyer began making tile at the old brick plant, and in 1898 the business was incorporated, with Mr. Krick as president; John Tyndall, secretary and treasurer, and George M. Krick, manager. An extensive and profitable business was soon established, the plant being strictly up-to-date in its equipment and the machinery used being of the most modern and approved style. Since retiring from active pursuits Mr. Krick has been enjoying the fruits of his many years of toil at his pleasant home at 405 Mercer Avenue.

Mr. Krick is a prominent member of the democratic party, and for two years, from 1899 until 1891, represented Adams County in the State Legislature. He was one of the organizers of the Decatur Gas Company, in which he is a director. He is also an extensive landholder, owning two farms, of 160 acres each, in Washington Township; 895 acres in the Louisiana State and Grower's Association, and 200 acres elsewhere. He is a strong temperance man, and did much toward making Decatur dry territory.

Mr. Krick married, in Adams County, Sarah Mangold, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1854, and in 1862 came with her parents, Ephraim and Mary (Slayback) Mangold, to Indiana, settling on a farm in Preble Township, where she was reared and educated. Mrs. Krick has been for many years an active worker in religious and charitable undertakings. For the past seven years she has been a member of the Adams County Children's Charities; she is a valued member of the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and is likewise an active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Krick have a large family of children, as follows: Nellie M., wife of Prof. John R. Parrish, principal of the Fort Wayne schools, has two children, John R. and Marian; Frank, who farms and works in the factory, married Eva Elsa, and they have three children, Pauline, Robert and Joseph; George M., manager of the tile factory, married Mary Klinehitz, and they have one son, Arthur W.; Desire, wife of Lewis Dolch of Toledo, Ohio, has one child, Ruth Virginia; Augnes of Gary, Indiana, is in the office of Mayor Ross Johnson; Josephine, who is a graduate nurse from the Lakeside Hospital, is now superintendent of a hospital in Kendallville, Indiana; Virgil, superintendent of a tile factory in Auburn, Iowa, married Merle Leonard, and they have two daughters, Barbara and Talisa; and Walter, a graduate of the Decatur High School, is now continuing his studies in the agricultural department of Purdue University. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Krick is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Fred V. Mills. Closely identified with the advancement of the mercantile interests of Adams County, Fred V. Mills of Decatur has met with highly satisfactory success as a grocer, and won a position of note among the leading business men of his community. A native of Ohio, he was born one mile west of Bladensburg, Knox County, August 17, 1866.

Isaac N. Mills, father of the subject of this sketch, was also born a mile west of Bladensburg, Ohio, and there spent his eighty-five years of early life, having been prosperously engaged in farming. He married Ophelia Sims, who was born July 27, 1827, in Saint Clairsville, Belmont County, Ohio. She outlived him, dying May 13, 1916, on the old home farm. Both she and her husband were members of the Pres-

byterian Church, and he was a firm supporter of the principles of the democratic party. Of the nine children born into their home, six sons and two daughters grew to years of maturity, and all married and reared families. One child died in infancy, and one son died in January, 1916, leaving a widow and children.

Brought up on a farm, Fred V. Mills acquired his early education in the country schools. While yet in his teens he began the battle of life on his own account, but not as an agriculturist, farm life having no charm for him. Coming to Indiana in 1885, he found employment as a clerk, first in a grocery in Decatur and later in a drug store in Harlan, Shelby County, Iowa. Returning then to Decatur, Adams County, Mr. Mills clerked a year in a local drug establishment. Industrious and thrifty, Mr. Mills accumulated some money, and in 1895, when he had a sufficient sum to warrant him in venturing into business on his own account, he bought out Jacob Young, who a few years before had established a store at 119 North Second Street. Continuing in the same location, Mr. Mills has built up a fine trade as a dealer in all of the staple groceries, his stock being extensive and embracing almost everything in his line that is demanded by the enterprising housekeepers of today.

Mr. Mills married, in Decatur, Mary Catherine Hill, whose father was an early settler of Decatur. Capt. A. J. Hill, Mrs. Mill's father, was born in Herkimer County, New York. He enlisted during the Civil war in the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and as captain of the company took part in several engagements of importance, escaping injury or capture, however. Subsequently settling in Decatur, he edited the Decatur Eagle and Democrat, and served one term as county clerk. He died at his home in Decatur June 8, 1896. Captain Hill married Victoria Simcock, daughter of James Simcock, and she is still living, a bright and active woman of seventy-eight years. She is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Captain Hill was a man of literary tastes, and until his death was a contributor to the Decatur Democrat of which he was at one time editor. During President Cleveland's administration, the captain served in the pension department in Washington, being there when A. N. Martin was a representative to Congress.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills have three children, namely: Frank J., a traveling salesman, lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he married Estella Parker; Margaret B., a graduate of the Decatur High School, married Milo McKinney, a Ford salesman and now residing in Decatur; and Victoria O. Mr. and Mrs. Mills are active and valued members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Mills is a democrat in his political affiliations, and for six years served as a member of the school board. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, being a past chancellor; a member of the Grand Lodge; and for twelve years was master of finance.

James F. Arnold. There is only one man out of a hundred who has in him sufficient ambition and energy to achieve a definite success over the obstacles of a poor start and countless difficulties in the manner that James F. Arnold of Decatur has done. Mr. Arnold is one of the substantial men in a financial sense, and his relations as an oil broker and oil well supply merchant have made him a familiar figure in the oil fields both in the Middle West and in various sections of the country.

Mr. Arnold was born in Blue Creek Township, Adams County, December 19, 1887. His birthplace was a log cabin. He was one of a

family of eleven children, and his people were very poor. Consequently he grew up with few home advantages, and with a limited education except as he attained it at the expense of his own labor. His early years were spent in Adams and Jay counties, and it was here he grew to manhood. At the tender age of eight years he became practically dependent upon his own resources, initiating himself into the business world by finding employment as newsboy on the trains of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. He also did odd jobs for circus managers, traveling with their shows, thus visiting various parts of the country. For about one year he was a traveling solicitor for a wool and hide business. An interesting episode of his business career came when he bought a small restaurant. With only a ten dollar cash payment, which represented his entire fortune, his credit was considered good and he secured possession of the property. He took hold of the business in his usual energetic manner, working industriously during the day and taking his rest at night on an improvised couch beneath the counter of the store, and at the end of ten weeks disposed of the property, paid off his debts and as the result of his enterprise found himself the happy possessor of a three hundred dollar surplus. At other times he clerked in hotels and stores, but from the age of sixteen, having been more or less identified with the oil fields of Indiana and Ohio, he started to handle second-hand supplies for oil wells, continuing with this work until at the age of twenty he deemed himself able financially to marry the maiden of his choice, Alta J. Ford, who also had been born and reared in Adams County, and previous to her marriage had been a teacher in the public schools.

After his marriage Mr. Arnold continued the business of handling new and second-hand oil well supplies, and he also conducted a machine shop.

At the age of twenty-three the first big disaster came to him when he was called upon to render an accounting of his various obligations and found himself practically bankrupt, with a three thousand dollar indebtedness. His credit, however, stood out strong, even under these trying circumstances, and there was no limit to his working energy. Going to Portland, Jay County, Indiana, he purchased property on credit, sold it to an advantage and in a short time was progressing rapidly to the front. He finally bought his first oil lease. It made him some money, and then followed successful purchases until he had eighty active wells in operation. One reason for his business success has been his prompt and scrupulous fidelity in meeting every obligation so that his credit has been established on a "rock foundation."

For a number of years he worked strenuously, without regard to his personal health, and in January, 1913, there came a crisis in his personal condition, resulting in a complete nervous breakdown. He was at that time living in Geneva. This critical time found him with leases and ownership extending to about a hundred and fifty oil wells in Jay, Adams and Wells counties, and while he had to sacrifice some of his interests, he held onto others and gradually regained his health, and today is carrying forward several times his former business. He now has over four hundred wells in Ohio and Indiana, and has an oil well supply office and yards in Tulsa, Oklahoma, also business interests in the East, in addition to his home offices at Decatur.

Mr. Arnold has been a resident of Decatur since 1916. His offices are in the People's Loan & Trust Company Building. He is a broker for oil produced in Ohio and Indiana, and handles every class of equipment needed by wells and oil interests, both in the Middle West and in the Western fields. It is doubtful if any resident of Adams County

has a more complete and thorough experience of the oil business than Mr. Arnold, who practically grew up in the atmosphere of this great industry. Mr. Arnold is also one of the large stockholders in the People's Loan and Trust Company.

Recently he erected one of the finest stucco homes in Decatur, a modern and thoroughly convenient residence which is one of the attractive architectural features of the city. He owns a farm in Blue Creek Township and another in St. Mary's Township. He is a republican, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and he and his wife and children belong to St. Mary's Catholic Church. The three children are: A. Winifred, eight years old; T. Travers, aged five; and James R., two years of age. A. Winifred is a student in the parochial school.

Thomas J. Durkin. Energetic, enterprising and accommodating, Thomas J. Durkin of Adams County is well known by the auto-traveling public as proprietor of the Modern Garage, which is advantageously located on South Second Street, Decatur, near City Square. This garage, 132 by 43 feet, is practically fire proof, and since its erection, in 1916, has been exceedingly well patronized. In its furnishing and equipment Mr. Durkin has spared no pains; on the second floor is a machine shop in which repairs of all kinds are promptly made, and on both floors are large storage rooms, while one room in the building is reserved as a rest room for ladies. The building is steam heated. and lighted with electricity, and its modern equipments, many of which are operated with electricity, are so arranged that each can be conveniently used. As agent, Mr. Durkin handles the Dodge, Auburn and Chandler cars, the territory which he covers embracing the whole of Adams County.

A son of John Durkin, he was born, in 1870, in Clinton County, Ohio, where he lived until eleven years old.

John Durkin was born in County Sligo, Ireland, and as a young man came to the United States, the land of hope and promise. Settling in Clinton County, Ohio, he lived there a number of years, and then, with his family, migrated to Indiana, settling in Adams County, where he remained a resident until his death, in 1884, at the early age of fifty-eight years. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary McGinn, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, but was educated and married in Clinton County, Ohio. She is now living in Decatur, an active woman of eighty-one years. She and her husband were both confirmed in the Catholic Church, and after coming to Adams County united with Saint Mary's Church. She is the mother of seven children, five daughters and two sons, all of whom married, with the exception of one daughter, who died many years ago.

Thomas J. Durkin received a practical education in the public schools, and soon after coming to Decatur entered the First National Bank, with which he was connected until 1911. Being elected county sheriff, he assumed the duties of that office January 1, 1911, and served efficiently in that capacity for four years. A stalwart supporter of the principles of the democratic party, Mr. Durkin has since served as a member of the Democratic County Committee, and as a member, and chairman, of the Democratic City Committee. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Durkin married, in Adams County, Lena Hain, who was born in Washington Township, this county, and educated in the parochial and public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Durkin are the parents of six children, namely: Gerald, now attending Saint Joseph's College at Rensselaer, Indiana; Clarence, a graduate of the local parochial school,

assists his father in the garage; Naomi; Cornelius; Eugene; and Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Durkin are members of Saint Mary's Church and have reared their children in the Roman Catholic faith. Mr. Durkin is a wide-awake man, public-spirited and generous, and occupies a place of prominence in business and social circles.

Miss Annette L. Moses has been librarian of the Decatur City Library since it was formally organized. In fact she was one of the conspicuous workers in the movement to give Decatur a real institution of that kind, and was appointed to her present position in 1905, about a year before the library building was dedicated in July, 1906.

Miss Moses is a native of Decatur, has always lived here, and graduated from the City High School in 1885. The following year she took work in the Teachers Training Class, and then entered upon a career as a teacher in the city schools. She later specialized in library training, and was thus well qualified for the duties which she took up when Decatur acquired its present city library.

Her assistant in the library is Miss Nellie M. Blackburn, daughter of the late Norval Blackburn, who was an old soldier of the Civil war and for a number of years was editor of the Decatur Democrat. Miss Blackburn was elected assistant librarian by the Library Board on August 22, 1914. She was educated in the Decatur City High School and for several years was associated with her father in newspaper work. The Moses family have been prominently known in Adams County for over sixty years. Miss Moses' grandparents were John and Rebecca (Stadtler) Moses, natives of Somersetshire, Pennsylvania, and of German parentage. They were German Lutherans in religion, but in later generations the Presbyterian Church has received most of the affiliations of the family. John and Rebecca Moses were married in 1824 and in 1832 removed to Carroll County, Ohio, where John Moses died in 1872, at the age of seventy-two. His wife died near Decatur, Indiana, in 1868, while visiting some of her children. John Moses voted the whig ticket and became a republican upon the organization of the party. He was for several years a justice of the peace.

William Warren Moses, father of the city librarian, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, November 4, 1832, and became a widely known and prominent business man and official of Adams County, Indiana. At the age of twenty years he moved to New Cumberland, Ohio, worked in a mercantile establishment two years, and in October, 1854, came to Adams County and was clerk with the firm of J. D. and J. M. Nuttman of Decatur until 1860. In that year he became associated with D. Crabbs under the name of Crabbs & Moses in a general merchandise store in Wells County. The business was moved to Decatur in 1863 and the firm name changed to Crabbs, Moses & Rice. In 1870 William Moses retired from this business and became identified with the manufacturing institution of H. W. Shackley & Company, afterwards the Shackley Wheel Company. He withdrew from this in 1874, then conducted a hardware store at Geneva, Indiana, until 1880, and on returning to Decatur became United States Express Company agent. He died at Decatur in 1892. He was a leading republican, and representing a minority party was seldom a successful candidate, though at one time he was a member of the city council. He was active in the Masonic Order and his sons all became Masons. On November 4, 1862, William W. Moses married Miss Julia Patterson, daughter of James and Eliza Jane (Peterson) Patterson. Mrs. W. W. Moses was born in Adams County in 1843, and died December 5, 1916, at the age of seventy-three. Her parents were prominent early settlers, coming to

Adams County at the respective ages of twenty and eighteen years from Pennsylvania. They acquired a tract of wild land, and made their home on ground that is now just outside the City of Decatur to the southwest. It is said that they ate their first meal from a stump. They erected a log cabin home, and in the course of time the City of Decatur sprang up around them. They reared a family here and they lived to a good old age and were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, both being of Scotch ancestry. W. W. Moses and wife were active members of the Presbyterian Church from their early childhood. They were the parents of four children. Louis C. was formerly a telegraph operator and is now connected with the Standard Oil Company at Houston, Texas, and is married and has a family. The second in age is Miss Annette L. Moses. Homer P. is a business man of Fort Wayne and is married and has one son. Warren W. is a newspaper man and is connected with the Great Falls Tribune at Great Falls, Montana. He is married and has two daughters. Miss Moses is an active member of the Presbyterian Church and is widely known and esteemed by all classes of Decatur citizens, who regard her life as one of devoted service to one of the institutions of which the people are most proud.

John Hebert Heller, whose co-operation and direct assistance have contributed in great measure to the preparation of the history of Adams County, is editor and proprietor of the Decatur Daily Democrat and president of the Democrat Company. He is a native of Decatur, born in that city May 4, 1873.

His father, the late Judge Daniel David Heller, was born in Harrison County, Ohio, March 29, 1839, a son of Henry B. and Mary A. (Weyandt) Heller. The grandparents were natives of Greene County, Pennsylvania, but after their marriage made their permanent home in Harrison County, Ohio, where Henry B. Heller died in September, 1881, and his wife in 1874.

Judge Heller grew up on a farm and was educated in the country schools of Ohio and at Hagerstown Academy. For several years he alternated between teaching and the study of law. In 1863 he was admitted to the bar of Ohio and in August of the same year located at Millersburg in that state. In 1867 he came to Decatur, Indiana, and was one of the prominent members of the bar for fifty years. In 1872 he was appointed county school examiner, and in 1873 was elected the first county superintendent of schools. He resigned the office after eighteen months. In 1887 he was elected mayor of Decatur for a term of two years. Subsequently he was called from his private practice to the office of judge of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit, and for twelve years presided with dignity and scholarly wisdom over this branch of the judiciary. His death occurred January 2, 1917. Judge Heller married July 15, 1869, Annie J. Corbus, a native of Ohio and a daughter of John and Mary (Armstrong) Corbus. She is still living.

John Hebert Heller was educated in the local schools of Decatur, graduating from the high school in 1890. In 1886, at the age of thirteen, he began learning the printer's trade with the old Decatur Journal. He worked at the trade when not in school for nine years, and at the same time carried on his law studies and was graduated from the Indianapolis Law School in 1897. In 1898 he became city editor of the Decatur Democrat, and has ever since been actively connected with that paper.

The Decatur Democrat is a lineal descendant of the old Decatur Eagle, which was founded in February, 1857, by H. L. Phillips. William G. Spencer was later a partner of Mr. Phillips and in 1859

they sold the business to A. J. Hill, who was its publisher for fifteen years. In November, 1874, the plant was bought by Joseph McGonagle, who changed the name to the Decatur Democrat. In 1879 S. Ray Williams became proprietor and in 1881 A. J. Hill again bought the paper and published it two years. In 1883 Norval Blackburn became the active factor in the management of the paper. In 1896 Mr. Blackburn sold his interest to Lew G. Ellingham, who was identified with the paper until he was elected secretary of the State of Indiana, and since June, 1916, on retiring from that office, Mr. Ellingham bought the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette and has been its editor.

In June, 1916, Mr. Heller bought the interest of Mr. Ellingham and became president of the company. When the company was first incorporated Mr. Heller acquired $10,000 of its stock and became secretary and manager. In 1903 he assisted in founding the Daily Democrat, which has been largely under his immediate management ever since. The Democrat was issued both as a weekly and daily until 1908, when the weekly issue was suspended. The Democrat has been built up until it now enjoys a circulation of 3,000, and has the tone and dignity of a metropolitan paper. It has a leased line of the United Press for general news. The Democrat for many years has stood ably behind every movement for progress in Adams County, and when any enterprise worth while is launched there is no hesitation as to what stand the Democrat will take. Associated with Mr. Heller in the Democrat Company is Arthur R. Holthouse, secretary and treasurer of the company, and a newspaper man of much ability for one of his age.

Mr. Heller has taken an active part in politics but has never allowed his name to be connected with the candidacy for an office. In 1909 he was clerk in the Legislature and served as an alternate to the National Convention at Baltimore in 1912 and was a regular delegate to the convention at St. Louis in 1916. He was secretary of the Democratic State Convention of Indiana in 1912 and 1914. Mr. Heller is a Thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason with membership in the Consistory at Fort Wayne and is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

November 29, 1899, he married Miss Martha A. Peterson. She graduated from the same class of the Decatur High School as Mr. Heller. Mrs. Heller is a daughter of Robert S. and Fannie (Kunkle) Peterson. Robert S. Peterson was born in St. Mary's Township of Adams County, February 1, 1845, a son of John W. and Hannah (Smith) Peterson, who were married in Adams County in 1840. Robert S. Peterson saw active service as a Union soldier during the last year of the Civil war, later studied law with Judge David Studabaker, and was admitted to the bar in 1868. He was for many years a prominent figure in the community, as a lawyer, banker and as a public spirited citizen. He was once a candidate for Congress in the old Eleventh District. He served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Decatur for the five years before the adoption of a city charter in 1882, and is given credit for doing much to perfect the sewerage system of Decatur at that time. He also helped organize and secure the construction of the Narrow Gauge Railroad through the county, now the Clover Leaf system, and was also a stimulating factor in building the old Chicago & Atlantic, now the Erie Railway. Robert S. Peterson died in 1914, and his widow, whose maiden name was Fannie C. Kunkle, is still living in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Heller have two children, Fanny E. and Dick D. The former graduated with the class of 1918 in the Decatur High School and the latter is a junior in high school.

Clarence E. Bell is responsible for the development of one of Decatur's most promising and valuable industries, the La Fontaine Handle Company. It is a business that affords employment to about thirty-five men practically throughout the year, and thus no inconsiderable portion of the local population derive their income from this industry. The plant is at Tenth and Elm streets, and was established in 1910. The factory makes handles of all kinds for rakes, hoes, forks, brooms and shovels and the output is supplied to tool makers all over the country from New York west to California. About a million handles are manufactured every year. The material used is entirely ash, and in another department they manufacture about six hundred thousand headings for butter firkins and tubs. Mr. Bell is a thorough financier and business man and has from the first been at the head of the commercial end of the business. He built the plant at Decatur, having shipped the machinery from La Fontaine, Indiana, where he had been in business in the same line for three years. His local backer at that place was the banker A. P. Harper. At La Fontaine Mr. Bell had the entire management of the business. The first three years after moving to Decatur he got his raw milling supplies from Adams County and since then has been in the market for ash timber all over Northeastern Indiana and Northwestern Ohio. The business is a very progressive one, and at the present time there is a considerable export trade to England.

Mr. Bell was born in Miami County, Indiana, in June, 1877, and was reared there on a farm and graduated from the Roann High School of Wabash County in 1897. For two years he was a school teacher in his native county and after completing the course of the Indianapolis Business College he entered employment with the Peabody Lumber Company of Columbus City, Indiana, and was with them ten years. He thus acquired a thorough knowledge of the lumber business, and having in the meantime gained the confidence of men of capital he was able to set up a business of his own at La Fontaine.

His father, William Bell, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, and when a young man removed to Miami County, Indiana, where he married Frances Kling. She was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and when a girl went to Indiana with her parents and grew up in Miami County. She was a most faithful wife and mother and will always have the deepest gratitude of her children. She died in the fall of 1908, at the age of fifty-nine. Mr. William Bell is now living at the old home in Miami County and is enjoying good health at the age of fifty-nine. His farm is at Chili, where for many years he was a successful agriculturist and dealer in livestock, but is now living retired. He is an active republican, and has held various minor offices. He and his wife were both active Baptists. Of their children the only other son was George Ray, who met a tragic death at the age of sixteen. He was thrown from a frightened horse, and his foot caught in the lines and his body was dragged along the highway for fully a mile and a half. There are two daughters, Allie, wife of Charles Bish of Miami County, and Florence, wife of William Musselman of Wabash County, and they have two daughters, Esther and Florence, both attending high school at Wabash, Indiana.

Mr. Clarence E. Bell married at La Fontaine, Indiana, Jessie Miller. She was born about seven years after her husband and was reared and educated in her native county. They have one son, William Howard, now seven years of age and beginning his work in the local schools. Mr. and Mrs. Bell are very active members of the Baptist Church at Decatur and he is one of the church deacons. Politically he is a repub-

lican, and as a citizen has always shown a high sense of duty to his home town and has found means of helping forward every laudable enterprise. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Lodge of Masons at La Fontaine, where he is a past master of the lodge, is a member of the Royal Arch Chapter at Decatur, of the Council and Commandery at Wabash, and belongs to the Fort Wayne Consistory of Scottish Rite and Mizpah Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He is also affiliated with Kekionga Lodge No. 65 of the Knights of Pythias.

Levi L. Baumgartner has been one of the useful men of Adams County for many years. He is a civil engineer by profession, has filled the office of county surveyor at different times, and has been much in public life as a teacher, public official and vigorous performer in every task which he undertakes.

He is now filling out an unexpired term as city engineer of Decatur, having been appointed as successor to Orval Harruff on January 1, 1917, and by appointment begins a term of three years as deputy surveyor of Adams County on January 1, 1918. In 1904 Mr. Baumgartner was elected county surveyor of Adams County and filled that office consecutively for four years. He was regarded as one of the most competent men in that position the county has ever had. In 1908 he became deputy county clerk under Clerk Ferdinand Bleeke and was in that office with Mr. Bleeke four years. Mr. Bleeke is one of the proprietors of the Fair Store of Decatur. On leaving public office Mr. Baumgartner was engaged in the fire insurance business until he took his present office.

He was born in French Township, Adams County, October 16, 1863, and spent the first twenty-one years of his life in his native locality. He attended the local schools there and also the Angola Normal School. He became a successful teacher and for twelve years was identified with the work of the schoolroom. At the time of his election to the office of county surveyor he was living in Hartford Township of Adams County.

Mr. Baumgartner's grandfather, John Baumgartner, Sr., was a native of Canton Berne, Switzerland, and after his marriage came to the United States. The sailing vessel which brought him across the ocean was sixty-five days in landing him at New York City. From there he came on to Putnam County, Ohio, lived there for some years and in the late '40s established his home in French Township of Adams County, where he cleared up a portion of the wilderness and became a very substantial farmer. Late in life he retired to Berne and died there when quite old. He and his wife were members of the Mennonite Church. In politics he was a democrat.

John J. Baumgartner, Jr., father of the city engineer of Decatur, was born in Putnam County, Ohio, in 1844, and was a small boy when the family came to French Township. He married Rosanna Horn, who was born in Stark County, Ohio, where her parents were substantial farmers and where they died. Her parents were members of the German Reformed Church. She was a member of quite a large family. As a young woman Rosanna Horn came to French Township to visit relatives and while here met and married John J. Baumgartner. She is still living at the age of seventy-three at Linn Grove. John J. Baumgartner died about 1905, when past sixty. He was an active member of the Evangelical Church, as is his widow, and in politics was a strong republican. Levi L. Baumgartner was the oldest in a family of six sons and four daughters. Those still living besides himself are, Edward, Daniel, Charles, Emma, Mary and Ida, all married except Ida.

In Wells County, Indiana, Levi Baumgartner married Lilla Studabaker. She was born in that county in August, 1866, and was educated in the public schools. Her parents were Abraham and Louisa (DeWitt) Studabaker, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York. They came as young people to Wells County, were married there, and lived out their useful and honorable careers as substantial farmers. They died when about eighty years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner are the parents of four children. Bessie was educated in the Decatur High School and is now the wife of Benjamin Welker of Delaware, Ohio, and has two children, James and Bettie. The son of Clyde after graduating from the local high school studied veterinary surgery in a college at Chicago, and was established in a growing practice at Arcola in Allen County, Indiana, until he enlisted as a private in the National Army and later was assigned to work as a veterinary surgeon with the rank of second lieutenant. At this writing he is at Fort Taylor, Kentucky. The third child, Pearl, is a graduate of the common schools and makes her home with her sister in Delaware, Ohio, where she is employed in a clerical position. The youngest of the family, John A., is a graduate of the common schools and is now employed as a jeweler in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner are active members of the Evangelical Church. He is serving the church as trustee and exhorter, and for a number of years has been superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter, and is filling one of the offices of his lodge.

William Kremers. With the progress of the world's war and the greatly increased demand for sugar abroad, the manufacture of that necessity of life has assumed greater importance than ever; and the special sugar-beet product has taken on such vigorous life as to make its substantial future as assurance. The branch of the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company at Decatur is now one of the largest factories of the kind in the country. Its superintendent is William Kremers, who, soon after graduating from college in the summer of 1899, became identified with the Holland (Michigan) plant, of which the Decatur manufactory is a branch which has outgrown its mother. After working three years in the laboratory Mr. Kremers enjoyed a practical training in all the departments of the factory, and when the management determined to found a branch at Decatur instinctively turned to him as the logical selection for a superintendent of construction and afterward of manufacture. The final outcome of the Decatur venture has already been described in the historical chapter which treats of that city.

Mr. Kremers was born near Holland, Michigan, in 1878; educated in the city schools of that place and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1898. His father and four brothers also graduated from the State University, and the former, Dr. Henry Kremers, was one of the founders of the first sugar-beet factory at Holland. His brothers have all adopted professional careers. Outside of the duties which fall upon him as superintendent and general manager of the Decatur manufactory, Mr. Kremers has the average responsibilities of the typical American citizen. He is an active member of the Knights of Pythias and is also identified with the Decatur Rotary Club. His wife (nee Sarah Borgman) is also a native of Holland, and a graduate of its high school. They are the parents of Margaret-Alice and Amy-Adriana, both of whom are attending school at Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Kremers are both members of the Presbyterian Church and the entire family attend its services.

JOHN FRUECHTE. Prominent among the native born citizens of Adams County who as tillers of the soil have accumulated a competency and are living retired from active business cares is John Fruechte, who was for many years profitably engaged in general farming in Preble Township on the farm occupied by his son Edward, but is now living in Fort Wayne. He was born in Preble Township, June 6, 1856, a son of Eberhardt Fruechte.

A native of Germany, Eberhardt Fruechte immigrated to the United States as a young man, locating in Indiana. Beginning life for himself as a farmer, he first bought forty acres of wooded land, and in the log cabin which he erected began housekeeping. He labored industriously, and subsequently bought adjacent land in Preble Township, where he continued a resident until his death, in the summer of 1872. His log cabin stood upon the present site of the church of that locality. He married in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Elizabeth Vodermark, a native of Germany, and to them seven children were born, as follows: Mary, deceased; William; Sophia; Lisetta, deceased; Louis; Henry; and John. The mother survived her husband, dying September 15, 1897.

The youngest child of the parental household, John Fruechte, acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture when young, and subsequently purchased from his father's estate the farm on which he began life for himself. It contains 178 acres of rich and fertile land, and is being ably managed by his son Edward, an energetic and successful agriculturist.

Mr. Fruechte married Elizabeth Butcher, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Butcher. She was born in Root Township, Adams County, where her parents located on coming to this country from their native place, Switzerland. She has two brothers, Christ Butcher and John Butcher. Seven children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fruechte namely: Martha, deceased; John, deceased; Edward, living on the home farm, married Lena Reppert, a daughter of Chris and Mary Reppert, and they have one child, Walter, born in 1913; Johanna; Adele; Ernst; and Mildred. Politically Mr. Fruechte is identified with the democratic party. Religiously he and his family belong to the Reformed Church.

EDWARD H. JOHNSON. When the lands of Northeastern Indiana and Northwestern Ohio were all new, presenting an unbroken tangle of forest and swamp and wilderness, and when the opportunity to secure land and homes was open to all, a family group that established themselves here both in Adams County, Indiana, and across the state line in Van Wert County, Ohio, were the Johnsons, who have been numerously and prominently represented in this locality for more than fourscore years.

Perhaps the oldest living representative of the family is Edward H. Johnson, who for a number of years has been associated in business with his son Richard Bert, and both occupy one of the fine country homes of Washington Township in Adams County, located in section 10. Edward H. Johnson was born just over the Ohio line in Van Wert County December 23, 1836. He has the distinction of having been the first white child born in Harrison Township of that county.

A few weeks before his birth, in October, 1836, his father, Abel Johnson, had settled in that township on a tract of land he had entered from the Government in the preceding June. His Government entry contained 140 acres, and the following year he entered another farm of eighty acres in Adams County, Indiana. He cut the first trees from this land and erected the first log cabin built in a wide stretch of

country. He had been assisted in securing this land and making his start as a pioneer by his father, Joel Johnson, who came about the same time and also constructed a log cabin home. Van Wert County was organized in 1836 and the Town of Van Wert laid out. Thus the Johnsons were associated with the very beginning of civilization in this region, and if there were any hardships and vicissitudes, good and bad fortunes which they did not experience, the fact has been left unrecorded. Nearly all the meat they had on the table in those early days was supplied by wild game and utmost simplicity was the rule from one year's end to the next. In 1854 Joel Johnson went still further west to Iowa, and died in that state in Polk County in 1856, at the age of fifty-seven. His wife had died in Ohio many years previously. Abel Johnson lived and died on the old farm in Van Wert County, having lived there nearly half a century. His death occurred in 1883, at the age of seventy-two. He was born in Harrison County, Ohio, grew up and married there Mary Heath, also a native of the same county. Her parents came from Maryland and died in Harrison County. Abel Johnson and wife had one child born in Harrison County, Nancy. Then they moved to Van Wert County in 1836 and the first of their children born there has already been noted. In Van Wert County their home was a log cabin for over a dozen years, and all the meals were cooked by the open fireplace. Of these log cabin days Mr. Edward H. Johnson has many interesting memories and as he tells the story the existence was not altogether one of hardship and deprivation, and undoubtedly the people of that time had happiness and many joys as well as hardships. His parents exemplified the teachings of practical Christianity in their daily lives though they belonged to no church and acknowledged no special creed. Of the four children Edward H. Johnson is the only one now living. Two of his brothers, John and Leonard, were soldiers in an Ohio regiment, went with Sherman to the sea, returned from the war unhurt and were married, but are both now deceased.

Edward H. Johnson married in his native township and county Susan Alexander, who was born in Harrison County, Ohio, in 1841, and died in Van Wert County May 11, 1879, at the age of thirty-seven. She was an active member of the United Brethren Church. For the past sixteen years Edward H. Johnson has lived with his son Richard B. on the farm in section 10 of Washington Township in Adams County.

One of the most interesting distinctions attaching to men in Adams County agricultural affairs is that belonging to the Johnsons, father and son, who are known as the leading potato raisers of the entire county. There is no phase of this industry with which they are not familiar by practical experience. They have handled the tuber under all conditions of climate and market, have had a product of 20 bushels to the acre and at other times 300 bushels have rolled out from the soil at the end of the season's harvest. The vicissitudes of price have been as extreme as the amount of production, and from 30 cents a bushel they have sold their crop as high as $2.00 a bushel. The Johnson farm in Washington Township is thoroughly well improved and drained, and has a group of excellent building improvements.

Edward H. Johnson had three children. His older son, George, served in the Spanish-American and Philippine wars, and is now in the Philippine Islands. His daughter Geneva died at the age of thirty-one, the wife of James Harmon, her first husband having been John Marquart. She left one daughter, Elsie, and one son by her first marriage, Roy Marquart.

Richard Bert Johnson was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, January

26, 1871. He grew up and received his education there but has lived in Adams County since he was twelve years old. He has been very successful as a farmer and is one of the substantial men of the county. His finishing education was obtained in the Decatur High School.

In Adams County he married Miss Viola Merriss, who was born in Van Wert County April 7, 1875, and grew up and was educated in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Johnson have had a family of eight children. Ellery, who was educated in the local schools, is now in the Signal Corps of the United States Army, a promising young soldier located at Camp Shelby at Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Benjamin, who is already embarked in business life as an employee of a firm at Fort Wayne; Rosa, aged eighteen, now learning the millinery trade with Mrs. Burge of Decatur; Emma, aged fifteen, in the first year of the high school at Decatur; Forest Burton, born August 13, 1906, now in the sixth grade of the public schools; John William, born May 27, 1909, in the third grade; Agnes G., who was born in 1912; and Richard W., who is the baby of the family.

Rev. David Schwartz has since April 5, 1885, been the minister in charge of the Amish Christian Church in Monroe Township of Adams County. A numerous community has come to look upon him as a comfort in time of trouble, an upholder of the faith in darkness and in light, and one who has steadily pursued his course with undeviating firmness and has furnished inspiration and guidance at all times. Rev. Mr. Schwartz is a devout Christian, a man who commands respect by reason of his uprightness and integrity, is thoroughly well educated and a model figure in both home life and his community.

Rev. David Schwartz and his adherents were highly blessed inasmuch that the Lord gave him to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ undefiled, and accordingly the church through him has reformed, and he rebuilt her upon the first ground and corner stone Jesus Christ.

First: He restored the true teaching of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which knowledge the Mennonites and the Amish are entirely destitute.

Second: He restored the "Lord's Communion" in its true sense for a true reconsideration of the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. Which communion previously was practiced in a very idolatrous way.

Third: He again taught to observe the spiritual "Passover" which the Amish and the Mennonites teach in a very abominable sense.

Fourth: He restored the distinctive teaching of the Law of Moses and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is entirely hidden to the Amish and the Mennonites.

Fifth: He re-established "Shunning" the excommunicated upon its first foundation. Not only to shun them in eating but also in their daily association, company and conversation.

Sixth: Through him was again restored Charity among the brethren inasmuch that they all heartily care for one another, both spiritually and bodily, for they heartily love one another.

He also taught that we should in no-wise take an oath, because it is a mortal sin. Matt. 5.34.35. James 5.12.

He has also, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ, forbidden all vengeance and resistance, viz., to not carry on a law suit nor to take part in any magisterial service nor to take part in warfare in any way or form (Matt. 5.39.40. Rom. 12.19), but that we shall honestly give unto the magistrates their dues. Luke 20.25. Rom. 13.6.

Seventh: He has eradicated from the church all works of the law of

Moses, and perceived that Jesus Christ is the end of the law of Moses. Rom. 10.4.

Eighth: He has eradicated from the church all laws, commandments, formalities and old customs devised of men and perceived that they are of the works of Satan and not of God.

Ninth: He has preached a pure, undefiled Gospel and hath thus again purified the House and Camp of Jesus Christ of all false services pretended to be divine, to the honor of the Lord. The Lord be praised forever. From thence he and his people carried the Cross of Jesus Christ, which rendered unto them great honor in the sight of God. But this cross is not a white cloth with a red cross on it, as is generally believed by the people of the present time.

To say that those who carry the red cross on a white cloth are cleansed and designated by the blood of Jesus Christ is a fabricated thing of the Harlot of Babylon and not the teaching of Jesus Christ. But the true "Mark" of the cross of Jesus Christ is scorn and persecution for his name's sake, with which his disciples are designated. And whosoever does not receive this "Mark" of the cross has no share with Jesus Christ. But whosoever received this "Mark" of the cross has the assurance of everlasting life. Matt. 5.11.12. 2 Tim. 3.12. 1 Peter 2.20. 3.14.

In such manner was this church rebuilt upon the corner stone of Jesus Christ. Therefore she designates herself after her master's name, "Christian Church," but as a rule people name her "Amish Church" named after Jacob Amman, hence she bears the name "Amish Christian Church."

Conclusion: When this church was founded at the time of the Apostles she was named "Catholic," that is to say pure orthodox.

From about 1530 A. D. to 1700 this church was named Mennonite Church after Menno Simons.

From 1700 A. D. to 1894 she was named "Amish Mennonite Church." And from 1894 until this time she was named "Amish Christian Church."

Through the grace of God this is the remaining bride of Jesus Christ, the which sojourned unto the present time.

While his work as a minister has been so successful, Rev. David Schwartz has proved an equally capable farmer and has developed one of the good farms of Monroe Township, where he lives surrounded with his sturdy sons and daughters.

He was born in Adams County October 12, 1862, a son of Joseph and Emily (Mazelin) Schwartz. His father was a native of France and his mother of the United States. His parents many years ago located on 160 acres of wild land in Monroe Township, and they cleared and improved that property. The parents are still living and reside in Michigan with their son Daniel A. The old farm was some years ago divided and sold, eighty acres going to Eli Bear, forty acres to Joseph's son Peter A. and another forty to Chris A. Schwartz.

Rev. David Schwartz married March 15, 1883, Anna Stury, a daughter of John and Anna Stury. Mrs. Schwartz's brothers and sisters are Peter, Rudolph, Albert, Susanna. Mrs. Schwartz was born in Switzerland and came to the United States with her parents when she was a small child. Her mother died November 1, 1871, and is buried in Allen County, Indiana, and her father passed away November 11, 1906, and was laid to rest in Adams County. Rev. David Schwartz has brothers named Joseph A., Peter, Jacob and Daniel, and two sisters, Rosanna and Emilia.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz with dates of birth are as follows: Noah D., born April 29, 1884; Joseph D., March 11, 1886;

Susanna D., June 23, 1888; Rosina D., April 4, 1890; John D., August 16, 1891; Peter D., January 18, 1894; David D., October 6, 1895; Daniel D., April 26, 1898; Jacob D., October 3, 1900; and Martha D., December 10, 1902. The four younger children are all unmarried. Noah married for his first wife Emma Mazelin and for his second wife Catherine Nusbaum, but has no children by either wife. Joseph married Lydia Mazelin and has one child, Agnes. Susanna is the wife of Jacob L. Liechty and has four children, Esther, David, Anna and Lorina. Rosina married Jacob H. Habegger, and their family of four consists of Selma, Martha, Metta and Joel. The son John married Louise Schoenherr. Peter married Elizabeth Nusbaum and has one son, Gerhart.

Fred Reppert, Jr. Of the citizens of Adams County who have more than a local reputation it is doubtful if any one is more widely known, especially among livestock men all over America, than Fred Reppert, Jr. Fred Reppert, Jr., is a genius as an auctioneer. It is a business which he inherited from his father, and he has developed his talents to a degree that makes him a master of his profession and art. For a number of years Mr. Reppert has found his time and energies engaged almost exclusively in the selling of high class livestock. It has not been uncommon for him to officiate at sales involving the disposing of property worth tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars, and in the sale of high class individual animals he holds the record of auctioneers in America

His father, Fred Reppert, Sr., became widely known all over the state of Indiana as an auctioneer, and the boy took up the profession at the early age of seventeen. Fred, Jr., had gone about with his father at sales and as a boy acquired a close technical knowledge of values and of points of good livestock. The first sale at which he presided as a public auctioneer occurred near his old home at Vera Cruz in French Township of Adams County. His father had been engaged to handle a general farm sale and being unavoidably kept away, the son took his place. He was not long in winning the confidence and sympathy of his audience, and in the judgment of many he did the work fully as well as his father could have done. At the age of twenty he came to Decatur, and from that time forward sold livestock of all kinds, but gradually began filling the highly specialized position of auctioneer of thoroughbred stock. A number of years ago he was called upon by Mr. J. B. Nidlinger of Adams County to handle the sale of a drove of thoroughbred Red Duroc Hogs. One of these hogs he succeeded in selling for more than thirteen hundred dollars, and that sale gave him a reputation. Later he was called to Pawnee, Illinois, to sell a hog of similar breed for N. A. Baxter. Under his skillful management this hog brought the price of $5,025, establishing a world record for that breed. Mr. Reppert has also sold cattle for the highest prices on record. A single cow brought $10,000, he sold a bull for $31,000 and he sold a Belgian stallion for $47,500. He has sold herds of cattle and other livestock all over the United States. In May, 1917, he handled a sale for Mr. McCray of Kenton, Indiana, selling seventy-five head of cattle at an average price of $1,750 a head. Recently in one afternoon he disposed of more than three hundred city lots for the Decatur Commercial Club. These brought an aggregate of more than sixty-one thousand dollars, and the profits, amounting to about forty thousand dollars, were turned over to a local commercial enterprise. It would not be difficult to compile a long list of the many extraordinary sales handled by Mr. Reppert. He has given his services in every state in the Union, in every province of Canada and even in Old Mexico.

Obviously Mr. Reppert is a man of many parts and of highly specialized training along varied lines. His knowledge is not confined to livestock alone or to commercial values, but involves a great amount of familiarity with human nature. He is also a linguist, and has a speaking fluency with German, French and even with the Spanish tongue.

Mr. Reppert confesses to an age of forty years but would not impress one as more than thirty. This is due to a complete conservation of every physical power of his body and mind. He has avoided any habit that would interfere with his perfect physical robustness, and while he weighs over 200 pounds he has not a single pound of superfluous flesh and is one of the finest specimens of manhood that one could meet in a day's travel. With a wit equal to every emergency, and with a mind of wonderful fertility and invention, Mr. Reppert combines a strong, musical and pleasing voice, and apart from his business efficiency he is a welcome addition to any social gathering.

Mr. Reppert was born in a log house in Preble Township of Adams County, but was reared and educated in French Township of that county. His father, Fred Reppert, Sr., was born near Heidelberg, Germany, seventy-six years ago and was four or five years of age when he came with his father, also named Fred, to this country. They made the journey in an old fashioned sailing vessel, which took many weeks in crossing the ocean, and from New York they came direct to Preble Township of Adams County. The grandfather located on a tract of raw land, cleared it up and developed a good farm, and the grandparents spent all their lives there. They were nearly 100 years old when they died. Fred Reppert, Sr., grew up there on a farm, and entered the auctioneering profession at the age of twenty spending practically his entire active career in that line though he always had a farm. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company K of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was in active service in many campaigns, but escaped all injury. He married Louise Sellemeyer, of Adams County, and for a number of years they have lived at Vera Cruz in Wells County and are still enjoying fine health and an ample prosperity. They are active members of the German Reformed Church, as were their parents.

Fred Reppert, Jr., a number of years ago recognized the value of real estate as an investment. Near Decatur he bought 200 acres of the finest farming land in the county. This is known as the Bellmont Stock Farm, and is one of the model places of the entire county. Its improvements represent a large amount of money, and the buildings are unexcelled for substantial character and convenience. Nothing is left undone that will add to the value and attractiveness of this farm. The farm manager has a home that many city people would envy and the tenants are all housed with every degree of comfort.

Mr. Reppert is also engaged in the lumber business at Decatur in association with his father-in-law, Mathias Kirsch. They conduct a large retail yard, handling all kinds of lumber and building supplies and materals. Mr. Reppert as another interest owns and operates a 500 acre cotton plantation in Louisiana, and for years has grown great quantities of the finest staple cotton.

His own residence is one of the most complete modern homes in Decatur, located at 520 North Second Street, and perhaps the choicest residential section of town. He built there an artistic home, of brown stucco exterior, containing a dozen rooms, and with every facility that modern life demands.

September 15, 1901, Mr. Reppert married in Adams County Miss Adella Kirsch. She was born in Bellmont, Illinois, in 1881, but was

reared and educated in Decatur, a daughter of Mr. Mathias Kirsch, a prominent Decatur business man whose career is recited on other pages. Mr. and Mrs. Reppert have two children: Eleanor, born September 12, 1904, and is now a student in high school, and Rowland Leroy, born December 22, 1914. The family are members of the German Reformed Church and politically Mr. Reppert is a democrat.

JOHN W. SHAFER, a resident of Adams County over thirty-five years, grew to manhood here, and has given a good account of his years in his chosen work of farming. He owns one of the good farms in Union Township, located nine miles northeast of Decatur and on Rural Route No. 3.

He is a son of the late George Shafer, who died in January, 1909, and whose name is held in high honor because of his service as a soldier in the Union army. George Shafer was born in Crawford County, Ohio, October 17, 1843, son of Philip and Mary Magdalene (Lebo) Shafer, both the Shafers and Lebos being of German ancestry. Philip Shafer was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, May 3, 1805, and was a pioneer settler in Crawford County, Ohio, going there in 1834. He entered land from the Government, and after improving it sold out in 1845 and moved to Illinois for 1½ years. He then returned to Crawford County and lived there until his death, July 2, 1883. His wife was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1803, and died in Crawford County October 2, 1873. They were members of the Lutheran Church and active Christians. They had a family of nine children. Another son, John, was in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio Infantry and was probably killed in action a day or two before the surrender of Lee.

George Shafer grew up in his native county and was a youth not yet nineteen when, on August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company H of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. He served successively under Colonel Milroy, General Sigel, General Hunter and General Sheridan. He was in the Eighth Army Corps, and was in active service in West Virginia and Virginia. September 3, 1864, he was wounded by a minie ball which shattered his right arm and at the same instant was shot through both thighs. He lay on the battle-field from Saturday evening until Monday evening, forty-eight hours. He was finally picked up and taken to the hospital at Winchester, where his arm was amputated, and then remained in the general hospital at Frederick, Maryland, until honorably discharged in January, 1865. After he returned home he spent a year recuperating, and then went to work on his father's farm. After his marriage he lived in a place of his own, also managed his father's farm, bought a forty acre place in Sandusky County, Ohio, in 1874, and after selling out came to section 5 of Union Township in Adams County in April, 1882. He was one of the honored residents of this county the rest of his life.

February 25, 1868, Mr. George Shafer married Sarah E. Wert, who was born in Crawford County, Ohio, June 6, 1843, and died in Adams County, Indiana in February, 1901. She was a daughter of Adam and Mary (McManus) Wert. Her father was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1817, and went with his parents to Crawford County, Ohio, at the age of nine years. He died in that county December 6, 1884. His wife was born in Crawford County January 13, 1822. Mrs. George Shafer was the second in a family of eleven children. She was a granddaughter of Joseph and Barbara (Kitch) Wert, both natives of Pennsylvania, and was a maternal granddaughter of James and Sarah (Walter) McManus, also natives of Pennsylvania

and all of them early settlers in Crawford County, Ohio. Some of her ancestors were soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

Mr. and Mrs. George Shafer had six children: Mary A., born November 14, 1868, wife of W. W. Mumma; Rosa E., born July 27, 1871, wife of Thomas Griffith; John W.; Franklin J., born January 18, 1875, died in 1882; William W., born October 4, 1878, a resident of Union Township; and Charles E., born February 23, 1885, also of Union Township.

Mr. John W. Shafer was born near Bucyrus, Ohio, June 20, 1873, and was nine years old when his parents came to Adams County. He received most of his education in Union Township, and was at home with his parents up to the age of twenty-one.

In 1895 he married Miss Edith Wherry. She was born in Union Township, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Wherry. After completing her education Mrs. Shafer was bookkeeper for the firm of Baxter & Friedline at Bluffton until some time before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have three children: Lele, a graduate of the common schools and wife of Edgar Gerber; Joseph R., a graduate of the Monroeville High School; and George K., who is now in the third year of high school.

The Shafer family are active members of the United Brethren Church at East Liberty, and he is serving as one of the church trustees. He is a democrat in politics, but has seldom participated actively, though he is a thinking and observing citizen and endeavors to fulfill all his responsibilities as a member of the community. Mr. Shafer and wife have one of the good farms of Union Township, comprising eighty acres.

James A. Hendricks. Adams County takes a just pride in its public highways, and never more than at present when the care and superintendency of these arteries of traffic have been under the direction of James A. Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks was appointed to his office by the board of county commissioners January 1, 1914. But he has had more or less active connection with the highways for a number of years. Altogether his supervision extends to about 600 miles of roads in Adams County. Mr. Hendricks was elected a county commissioner and filled that office from 1910 until he resigned to take the superintendency of the improved highways. In this office he has proceeded with his business on a methodical plan, and has had the county divided into twelve road districts, over each of which he has an assistant superintendent.

Prior to coming to Decatur Mr. Hendricks was for many years in the employ of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company at Monroe in Adams County. He was a faithful operator and agent for that road twenty-five years. When he left the railway company he was given a clean bill of health and was known as a man who could always be trusted with carrying out an order down to the last detail.

Mr. Hendricks was born in Washington Township of Adams County December 11, 1863. He grew up there and received a common school education, and after going to work for the railroad he carried his text books along and continued his studies until he was well versed in the ordinary lines of learning and by increased experience has become thoroughly posted on many subjects. Mr. Hendricks was only a small boy when he stood on a box in order to sell railroad tickets in the station where his father was agent.

His father, Basil Hendricks, was a son of John and Mrs. (Custer) Hendricks, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They were married in Ohio and took up farming in Harrison

County of that state, where they spent their last years. They were members of the Methodist Protestant Church and the grandfather, John, was a democrat. Basil Hendricks was born in Harrison County, Ohio, in 1818 and died at his home in Adams County, Indiana, September 21, 1888. He first married in Ohio a Miss Cutchall, and in 1848 they came to Adams County, Indiana, being pioneers. They secured a tract of land in the wilds of Washington Township, built a log cabin home, and his first wife died in that old home when in middle life. Her five children were Jane, Oliver, Addie, John W. and Jacob. All of these married except Jane, who is still living in Decatur at the age of seventy-four.

Basil Hendricks first came to Adams County on horseback, carrying $600 in gold in his saddle bags. With this money he made his first purchase of land. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Mary (Coffman) Hower. Her first husband was Martin Hower, and the two children of that union, Sarah and Rebecca, married brothers, George and Daniel Roop. The second wife of Basil Hendricks died at Monroe in 1908, at the age of seventy-six. She and her husband for a number of years were actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically he was a rock-ribbed democrat. Basil Hendricks was the first railroad agent of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad at Monroe, having been commissioned to that office in 1871. He filled it practically all the rest of his life, and at the same time conducted his farm and a store. He was at one time candidate for the office of county commissioner. Basil and Mary Hendricks had the following children: Hattie, widow of Lacy Sells, a farmer of Monroe, where she is still living. Her family consisted of five sons and daughters, four of whom are living and all married. The second child, David, was a farmer, is now deceased, being survived by his widow. The third is Mr. James A. Hendricks. Minnie married Cranson Albaugh, and they live in Dennison, Ohio. Ella died after her marriage to L. A. Graham, and her children are Gladys, Harold and Gretchen.

James A. Hendricks married Elizabeth Thompson, a daughter of Howard W. Thompson. She was born in Harrison County, Ohio, May 2, 1867, and at the age of two years was brought to Adams County by her parents, who settled in Washington Township, where she grew up. Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks have three sons. Clyde W. graduated from the Decatur High School in 1913 and is both a teacher and telegraph operator, at the present time being principal of the Monroe High School. He married Anna Smith of Monroe and a graduate of the Monroe High School. They have a son, Richard W. Howard Gale, the second child, was born January 27, 1899, graduated in 1916 from the Monroe High School, and is now assisting his father at home as engineer on the road roller. McGee, the youngest child, was born May 15, 1905, and is still carrying on his studies. The family are active members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Hendricks is affiliated with Lodge No. 571, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; with Chapter No. 112, Royal Arch Masons; with Lodge No. 65 of the Knights of Pythias, and with Lodge No. 993 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Hendricks is now serving his third term as highway superintendent of turn pikes of Adams County. He purchased the home farm from the heirs, containing 140 acres, and is living on one corner of the property. He has a tenant on the farm.

Edward X. Ehinger. The name Edward X. Ehinger is one that appears and reappears frequently in connection with the modern business activities of Decatur and also in connection with its civic and

benevolent institutions. Mr. Ehinger has spent much of his life either as a merchant or banker, and is now cashier of the old Adams County Bank, a position he has held for ten years.

Prior to that he was connected with the bank about thirty years ago as bookkeeper and assistant cashier. It is one of his characteristics to assume all the responsibilities connected with any work which he undertakes, and he applied himself so completely to the tasks then assigned him that his health gave way and he had to recuperate by a somewhat extended stay of about four months in California. He was there during the summer of 1891, living at different places. On returning to Decatur he became associated with his brother Charles Peter Ehinger and a brother-in-law, Mr. J. H. Meyer, in the clothing business. This firm finally sold their store. Both Mr. Meyer and Charles Peter Ehinger have died within the last year. Both were well known merchants of Decatur, and Charles P. Ehinger was for a number of years connected with the clothing company of John Niblick.

In 1894 Edward X. Ehinger became associated with the First National Bank of Decatur, which was then practically under the same administration as it is today. For twenty years Mr. Ehinger was cashier of the First Natinal Bank, as told in the record of that institution found elsewhere in this work. He came from the First National to his present position with the old Adams County Bank.

Mr. Ehinger has been a director of the Citizens Telephone Company for a number of years and has been quite active in the upbuilding of that local concern. He was one of the organizers and a member of the first board of the local library and has been connected with it ever since. He was a member of the building committee which erected the present Decatur Public Library, and for a number of years has been treasurer of the board. Decatur now has one of the handsomest library buildings in the state, located on Third Street.

Mr. Ehinger was born in Columbia City, Whitley County, Indiana, February 22, 1861. Several years later his parents removed to Jefferson County, where he spent a considerable portion of his boyhood and where he attended the parochial schools. From there the family came to Decatur, and here as a small boy he found employment in stores and laid the foundation of his business career. When only fifteen years of age he was appointed deputy postmaster, and held that position for 7½ years during the administrations of J. A. Blossom, B. W. Schulty and Shaffer Peterson. Though very young for such responsibilities Mr. Ehinger proved his ability and diligence and put forth efforts that won the confidence of his superiors and the commendation of all patrons of the postoffice. Mr. Ehinger was possessed of a splendid physical constitution, and was very athletic in his earlier years. It has been his aggressiveness and persistence and untiring industry that have accomplished his successful business career.

Mr. Ehinger is of old German ancestry. His parents were Florian and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Ehinger. His father was born in one of the German countries along the Rhine and his mother near the French border. Florian Ehinger came to the United States with his parents and located near New Haven in Allen County, Indiana. The mother was only seven years of age when her people came to Adams County, locating near Decatur. Florian Ehinger and wife were married at Fort Wayne, then located at Columbia City and finally came to Decatur. Florian Ehinger was a tailor by trade, and for many years was in the clothing and merchant tailoring business. He died at Decatur in 1876. His widow is still living at the age of seventy-seven. He was a democrat and both were confirmed in the Catholic Church.

Edward X. Ehinger married at Decatur Miss Catherine E. Bremerkamp. She was born and reared and educated in Adams County and before her marriage was employed as a clerk. Her parents were J. H. and Magdalena Bremerkamp, both natives of Germany and early settlers in Adams County, where her father was a pioneer merchant of Decatur. They were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehinger have six children. Thomas, the oldest, is married and lives at Decatur and has two daughters, Margaret E. and Virginia R. Edna E. is the wife of William H. Berling, of Decatur, and they have a son, William E. Joseph J. was educated for the priesthood in the Passionist Order and is now known as Rev. Father Vincent, living at Cincinnati. Henry H. is a clothing merchant at Decatur and is unmarried. Leo E. is now at Camp Harrison, Indiana, as corporal of Company A, Fifteenth Regiment. Elma J. is still carrying on her studies in the local high school and during vacations works in the bank with her father. The family are all active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, which Mr. Ehinger serves as treasurer and trustee.

Martin J. Mylott continuously since 1890 has been superintendent of the light and water department of the City of Decatur. To him more than any other individual belongs the credit for the efficiency of that department of the public service. And the people generally have learned to appreciate his work and have come to understand the advantage to a community of concentrating definite responsibilities upon one man through a long period of years. Mr. Mylott is a master of every detail connected with the operation of the lighting and water system, and his long experience enables him to render a service in which the community has found perfect satisfaction. He was first appointed by the city council on November 16, 1890, and there has never been an occasion for a reappointment or any disturbance of his responsibilities.

Mr. Mylott brought to his present position more than a quarter of a century ago a thorough knowledge and experience as a machinist and mechanical and electrical engineer. He had studied the theoretical branches of his profession in Notre Dame University at South Bend, Indiana. For eighteen months he was connected with the Fort Wayne Electric Works, and then when the City of Decatur took over the light and water plant he was called to the office of superintendent at the beginning.

Mr. Mylott was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, January 10, 1876. A few months after his birth his mother carried him in her arms over the grounds of the great Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, but so far as he knows the magnificent exhibits left no definite impression on his infant mind. When he was five years of age his parents, Thomas and Margaret (Niblock) Mylott, came to Decatur in 1881. His parents ents are still living in Decatur, and both are natives of Ireland. His father was born in County Mayo October 19, 1846, and his mother near Belfast May 21, 1846. They came to America when single and both represent a long line of Irish Catholic ancestry. They married in Youngstown, Ohio, November 19, 1874. The father was a steel worker, and at Youngstown was employed as a base roller in the Brown-Bonnell Steel Mills. Later he moved to Huntington, Indiana, working in a flax mill, and after six months came to Decatur, where he established a flax factory. This was not altogether a success, since he could not induce or educate the farmers to appreciate the advantages of the flax mill, and he finally gave up its operation. For the past

thirty-four years continuously he has been in the employ of the Erie Railway Company in charge of its local waterworks. Thus both father and son have that enviable distinction which goes with long continued service in one position. Too much credit cannot be given to such men, who perform a service which is indispensable to the welfare of the world. Both parents are still living at Decatur, both active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and of their eleven children nine grew up, one son dying in infancy and a daughter, Genevieve, in childhood. Of the nine living children seven are sons.

Martin J. Mylott, the oldest of the family, married at Decatur Mary Fullenkamp. She was born at Decatur April 15, 1879, grew up here and attended the parochial schools. Her parents, Jacob and Mary (Klaehake) Fullenkamp, were also natives of Indiana, were married in Adams County, and spent many years in the county and at Decatur. Her father, who died in 1901, at the age of sixty, was a dry goods merchant. He voted as a democrat. Mrs. Mylott's mother is still living at the age of seventy-three and a devout worshiper in St. Mary's Catholic Church. The Fullenkamps had a large family, eight of whom are still living and six married. On son, Herbert, is now a soldier in the American army, being in an officers training camp at Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. Mylott are the parents of four children: Margaret, born July 26, 1904; Gerald, born December 12, 1905; Jerome, born March 4, 1907, and Frederick, born September 19, 1910. The older children are students in the parochial schools. All the family are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Mylott has been prominent in the Knights of Columbus. He holds the fourth degree in that order and has served as grand knight and in other offices.

Charles J. Jones trustee of Blue Creek Township of Adams County, is not less a business man than a farmer. He possesses the judgment and the energy to make farming pay and to give value to land, and though he has not the benefit of as many years of experience as some of his fellow citizens his career has been one of substantial achievement.

Mr. Jones' election as trustee of the township was in the nature of a personal triumph. He has always been a straightforward republican in his political views, while Blue Creek Township has a majority of democrats conservatively estimated at about sixty. Mr. Jones was elected trustee by a margin of nineteen votes, and nothing more clearly indicates his standing and esteem in the community.

Mr. Jones was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, April 30, 1880, son of Benjamin and Mary (Dailey) Jones, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. The mother is still living in Van Wert County, Ohio. Benjamin Jones was a Union soldier of the Civil war, enlisting with the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry and serving to the end of hostilities, though he was twice shot during his service. After the war he located in Van Wert County, married, settled down as a farmer, and there spent his active years. He was a member of the Grange and a republican in politics. Of the thirteen children born to him and his wife twelve are still living.

Charles J. Jones' early recollections are of the old farm in Van Wert County, where he grew up and received his education in the local schools. In 1900 he married Miss Ethel Siler, who was born in Mercer County, Ohio, and was also educated in the common schools. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Jones lived in Parker City, Indiana, for a short time, then spent a year in Mercer County, Ohio, where he was

a railroad man, and coming thence to Blue Creek Township of Adams County occupied their farm of 175 acres, which has been rendered both productive and a highly attractive home through the excellent management of Mr. Jones.

Three children were born to them, two still living. Orville is a graduate of the common schools and is now in the second year of high school at Berne. The daughter is Esther Nettie.

JOHN W. MCCRAY. One important phase of the history of Adams and Wells County is the development of its oil resources. While the oil fields in these counties have not been phenomenal producers they have in the aggregrate contributed an immense volume to the flow of crude petroleum and have added no inconsiderable sum to the total of the nation's resources. One of the pioneer figures in the old fields around Geneva is Mr. John W. McCray, who came here many years ago and has become identified with other lines of business, being now president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank at Geneva.

Mr. McCray was born in Western Pennsylvania, the district which has probably produced more oil men than any other in the United States. His birth occurred at Corry in Erie County, that state, May 3, 1871, son of Wilson C. and Cynthia (Lilley) McCray. He grew up on a farm in that richly historic and rugged section of Northwestern Pennsylvania, was educated in district schools, and at the age of fifteen left the farm and started out to make his own way in the world. For a couple of years he worked in the vineyards of his grandfather in New York State. He did various other things, and finally came west to Lima, Ohio, and went to work in the oil fields as a pumper and tool dresser. Before he was twenty-one he was drilling and was in the ranks of the independent producers. He remained around Lima for about two and one-half years, then came to the Indiana fields, locating near Geneva. Since then his interests have been continuously manifested in the Adams and Wells counties oil district, and he still has some producing wells in this vicinity.

A successful business man, his interests have naturally taken on a considerable breadth of scope and importance. He is financially identified with a factory at Hicksville, Ohio, for the manufacture of farm tool handles. He is also interested in coal mines in Southeastern Ohio under the name McCray Brothers. Mr. McCray was one of the chief organizers of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Geneva, and is the second president that institution has had. He has given a very efficient administration and has made the bank one of the strongest in these two counties.

Mr. McCray married Jennette M. Guist. They have two daughters, Lois and Mildred, both attending school at Geneva. Mr. McCray is affiliated with Geneva Lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is a republican in politics.

CLEMENT LEE WALTERS is a member of the firm Graham & Walters, abstracts, loans, real estate and insurance at Decatur. Mr. Walters is a lawyer by profession, but his chief business for many years has been as an examiner of titles and an expert in the department of placing loans on real estate.

He was one of the organizers and a director of the People's Loan and Trust Company of Decatur, one of the live financial institutions of the city. The president of this company is Mr. Mathias Kirsch. While a very busy and prosperous citizen Mr. Walters finds nothing in his career in which he can take greater satisfaction than his leadership

among the moral forces of his community. The good citizens of Decatur have many times congratulated themselves upon the splendid work Mr. Walters did in ridding the community of the rum traffic. A number of years ago he was made chairman of the County Protective Home League. From that date he took his coat off and entered determinedly on a campaign to put the saloon out of business. There were years of hard fighting, involved in the education of the people and the overcoming of opposition until Decatur was lined up with those towns that had put an effectual ban upon liquor traffic. Thus Decatur was one of the units in a gathering movement by which liquor was finally banished from the state altogether. No one ever made a harder and more determined fight in this cause than Mr. Walters, and it is characteristic of him that he gives a generous measure of credit to the earnest helpers who were enlisted with him in the work. Decatur was the only city of its size in the state that became an absolutely saloon free community.

Clement Lee Walters was born in Adams County January 10, 1869. He is a son of William and Martha A. (Drummond) Walters, long time residents of Adams County. William Walters was born in Pennsylvania, and was brought to Adams County by his parents when thirteen years of age. He was educated in the common schools, and so wisely utilized his advantages that when a mere boy he began teaching. He acquired great popularity in educational affairs, and when a comparatively young man was elected county superintendent of schools, serving from 1875 to 1879. In the latter year he moved to Clay County, Nebraska, resuming his work in the school, and was soon elected county treasurer of that county. Later he moved to Thomas County, Nebraska, and there again became actively identified with politics as a democrat. He was elected probate judge and filled that office with efficiency for two terms. He then retired from active life. His wife, Martha A. Drummond, was born in Ohio, a daughter of Robert Drummond, also a native of that state. The Drummond family came to Indiana and were pioneer settlers in Adams County, in Root Township. Robert Drummond cleared up a large farm there and died at his home in 1875. Mrs. William Walters died in Ohio. She was survived by her son Clement L. and also by her daughter Alice. Alice is the wife of William Tuohy and they now live in Gladwin County, Michigan.

Clement Lee Walters and Mr. Graham have been associated in business for the past five years. They have their business headquarters on Second Street, and a new home is being made ready for them at 123 Second Street, just opposite the courthouse, where they will have specially appointed offices for their business. Before becoming connected with Mr. Graham Mr. Walters was for many years an insurance man in Decatur, combining the work of insurance and abstracting with his law practice. He was admitted to the bar over twenty years ago, and took up the study of law in the firm of Peterson & Lutz. Before his admission to the bar he had a thorough training as an examiner of titles and has long been a recognized expert in that field. He has examined titles for many insurance and loan companies and is well known in that line of work throughout Northeastern Indiana. While much of the business is in placing loans for local capitalists, the firm also have a growing clientage in representing outside investors. Mr. Walters has spent most of his life in Adams County, Indiana, and for a time he was in the real estate business in Michigan. At the age of seventeen he secured his first license as a teacher under County Superintendent J. F. Snow. His first school was taught in the Schnepp dis-

trict, and altogether he taught six years in country schools and two years in the city high school at Decatur.

Mr. Walters is active in local politics as a republican, and has been prominent in the minority party in Adams County, serving for a number of years as a member of the County Committee and is now its chairman. For a time he was deputy internal revenue collector during the McKinley administration. Mr. Walters is an active member of the lodge and royal arch chapter of Masonry at Decatur and is affiliated with the commandery and the Scottish Rite bodies of Fort Wayne. He has been active in Scottish Rite work for the past thirteen years. He is also past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and was a member of the building committee which erected the handsome new home of that order.

In 1896 Mr. Walters married Miss Grace E. McConnehey. She was reared and given a good education in this county, and is the mother of three children, Robert K., Helen and Dorothy, all of whom are being carefully trained in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Walters are active working members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are always looking after the betterment of their city in every way possible, and Mr. Walters has for many years been a trustee of his church and superintendent of the Sunday school, and now teaching the Bible class.

Peter F. Graber is another member of the Graber family whose part as agriculturists and good citizens has been so conspicuous in Adams County. Mr. Peter F. Graber is managing one of the good farms of Monroe Township, and has had his home there and has secured a proper share of prosperity and has done his part as a worker and well wisher of the community for many years.

Some of the facts concerning his family history will be found on other pages of this publication. Mr. Peter Graber was born in Allen County, Indiana, December 1, 1874, son of Peter and Katie (Delarange) Graber, the former deceased and the latter now living on a farm in Michigan. Peter Graber was educated in the common schools, and the first important event of his life, and that which brought him the responsibilities which he has so faithfully borne, was his marriage on December 20, 1896, to Miss Rosa Mazelin, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Schwartz) Mazelin. Mrs. Graber represents an old and prominent family of Adams County. Her father was born in Monroe Township of this county April 11, 1847, and both his parents came from Switzerland and were pioneers in Monroe Township. James Mazelin died April 10, 1910, while Mrs. Graber's mother passed away February 5, 1874. James Mazelin by his first marriage, to Elizabeth Schwartz, had three children, Rosa, Anna and Elizabeth. He afterward married Barbara Miller, and by that wife had two children, David and Lydia.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Graber have five children: Henry, born January 10, 1898; Leah, born October 13, 1899; Edna, born November 23, 1902; Amanda, born September 28, 1904; and Lucy born February 2, 1912.

Mr. Graber brought his family to his present farm in Monroe Township on March 1, 1903. He has eighty acres and it is now up to the highest standard of improvement and cultivation. When he took possession there were very few improvements, the principal one being a log cabin home. He has erected good substantial buildings, has kept up the fertility of the soil and has introduced a number of facilities which constitute a good farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Graber are both members of the Amish Christian Church, and that was the church of their ancestors. Mrs. Graber's father had the following brothers and sisters: Amelia, who married Joseph Schwartz; Rosina, deceased; Frank, who married Barbara Schwartz; Virginia, who married John P. Nessbaum; and Peter, who first married Albertine Kipper and for his second wife Fannie Liechty.

JOHN B. WILSON. One of the oldest and best known families of Jefferson Township in Wells County are the Wilsons, whose homes and worthy activities have been centered here for more than sixty-five years. It is as representative of the third generation of the family that John B. Wilson appears in this record. He is one of the staunch and enterprising farmers of Jefferson Township.

The family was established here in 1851 by Gibson Wilson, great-grandfather of John B. Wilson. Gibson Wilson was a native of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and a son of James and Alice Wilson. After going to Ohio he married Nancy A. Harris, and in 1851 they came to Jefferson Township of Wells County and bought 240 acres in section 16. This was a heavily timbered tract, and their first home was a log cabin. The nearest town and the nearest neighbors were at Ossian. Gibson Wilson served as one of the first road supervisors of Jefferson Township and helped lay out the first roads from Ossian. He and his wife were members of the first Presbyterian Church built in the township, and they reared their children in that faith. Gibson Wilson died in 1862, survived for many years by his widow. Their children were Elizabeth, Cyrus, James, Nancy, John L., Margaret and Emma.

Cyrus Wilson, grandfather of John B. Wilson, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, and died January 11, 1901. He grew up in Wells County and in August, 1862, enlisted in Company K of the Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry. He served three years as corporal and was color guard in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Atlanta and in the march to the sea. He also carried the colors of his regiment in the military parade at Washington at the close of the war. For ten years after coming out of the army he was engaged in farming in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. John B. Wilson was born at Youngstown, Ohio, August 19, 1888, a son of John A. and Bethilda (Bushee) Wilson. His father was a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, and his mother of Union Township, Wells County. Jacob Bushee, father of Bethilda, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 22, 1888, and came to Union Township of Wells County in 1850. Twelve years later he bought land in Jefferson Township, and lived in this county for many years, being prominent as a farmer and also quite active in local politics. Mr. John A. and Bethilda Wilson are well known citizens of Wells County and are now residents of Zanesville in this county. They had two children, John B. and Cecil M. The latter married Jasper J. Davis on September 2, 1911, and they live in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

John B. Wilson was reared and educated in this county and for a number of years has carried on a successful business as a farmer on fifty-five acres of land in Jefferson Township. He has done much to improve this farm and for a man of his years is substantially situated and has bright prospects for the future. In politics he is a democrat.

Mr. Wilson married December 4, 1906, Ethel C. Woods, daughter of Francis and Edith (Wilcoxson) Woods, of Sheldon, Allen County, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have three children: Genevieve and Gladys, twins, born March 24, 1908, and John F., born November 12,

1909. Mrs. Wilson's brothers and sisters are: Jesse A., who married Celia Denney of Frankfort, Indiana; Otto M., who married Helen Barker, of Fort Wayne; Vernie E., wife of Homer Cranter, of Sheldon, Indiana; Edna G., wife of John Archibald, of Ossian, Indiana; and Anna Ronald, Alton, Helen, Glenna and Arthur, all of whom are still unmarried.

Fred W. Studler is one of the men who upholds and contributes to the business activities of Linn Grove, where he has been located for a number of years, since leaving his farm.

Mr. Studler is a native of Adams County, born in Hartford Township September 16, 1885, son of Fred L. Studler and Frances (Habegger) Studler, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of this country. After their marriage his parents settled on a farm in Hartford Township, Adams County, where the father, Fred L. Studler, died March 30, 1918. The mother is still living. Eight of their children survive, named David, Albert, Fred W., Lucy, Daniel, William, Charles and Pearl.

Fred W. Studler grew up on his father's farm in Hartford Township and attended school at Linn Grove. His early life was bounded by these experiences until he married on January 5, 1905, Miss Catherine Ellenberger, daughter of Henry Ellenberger.

After his marriage Mr. Fred W. Studler went to farming on his own account and continued that vocation for six years. He has from the time he reached his majority been active in democratic politics in Adams County, and at the age of twenty-two was elected township assessor, an office he filled for seven years in addition to his farm duties. Also since the age of twenty-two he has been precinct committeeman of his party with the exception of two years.

From the farm Mr. Studler moved to Linn Grove, where for six years he was a general merchant and also conducted a meat market, but he retired from this in 1917, and for eight months was the proprietor of a confectionery and lunch business, and on March 1, 1918, again went into the general merchandise business. In the spring of 1918 Mr. Studler entered the race for county treasurer and was nominated by a large majority over his four opponents at the primary May 7, 1918. Mr. Studler is a man of substantial position in the community, and is an active member and has held different offices in the Evangelical Church at Linn Grove. Mr. and Mrs. Studler are the parents of five children, named Freda, Mabel, Herbert, Flossie and Georgie.

Jacob Wechter. For many years actively and prosperously engaged in farming in Blue Creek Township, Adams County, Jacob Wechter has accomplished a satisfactory work in his chosen occupation, and having acquired a competency is now living retired from business cares, making his home with his eldest son, William Wechter. He was born September 18, 1831, in Rochester, New York, where his parents George and Frances Wechter settled on coming to America from their native land, Alsace-Lorraine, France, although later they moved to Washington County, Ohio, and there spent the remainder of their lives.

Growing to manhood in Washington County, Ohio, Jacob Wechter gained an excellent knowledge of agriculture when young, and having accumulated some money came to Indiana to invest it in land. Settling in Adams County in April, 1872, he bought eighty acres of land in Blue Creek Township, and in the log house which constituted one of its improvements moved with his family. With the true pioneer

spirit he cleared a large part of his property, and constantly added to the improvements previously inaugurated, placing the rich and fertile soil largely under cultivation, and replacing the log cabin and barns with a substantial frame house and other buildings necessary for carrying on his work. During the Civil war, while yet a resident of Ohio, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Ninety-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until after the close of the conflict, being honorably discharged from the service in February, 1866. Mr. Wechter is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and belongs to the Methodist Church, which he has served in various official positions. A democrat in politics, he was for ten years and three months a trustee of Blue Creek Township.

On November 8, 1854, Mr. Wechter was united in marriage with Mary Clancy. She was born in Limerick, Ireland, and as a girl of six years came with her parents, Patrick and Birdelia Clancy, to Saint Louis, Missouri, where she was married. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wechter, namely: William, born September 18, 1856; Frank C., born December 1, 1860, married Della Foster, of Van Wert, Ohio, and they have one child, Jacob Eugene; Annie M., born September 20, 1865, is the wife of O. U. Tyndall, of Adams County, and has one daughter, Francis; and John E., who was born April 2, 1871, and now owns and occupies the parental homestead, married Rosa Larimer, of Van Wert, Ohio, and they have three children, Mary L., who married Glen Workinger, of Adams County, and has two children, Fern E. and Flo E.; and Jennie M. and Delmore O.

William Wechter, with whom Mr. Wechter makes his home, married Martha Fairchild, a native of Van Wert County, Ohio. Her parents were born in Ohio, and there her father spent his entire life, dying in 1875. Her mother, Mrs. Fairchild, survived him, and is now living in Willshire, Ohio. Her only brother, Charles E. Fairchild, resides in Logan, Ohio. William Wechter and his wife have one child, Charles E. Wechter.

A. Q. Durbin. Situated in Monroe Township is the well improved and prosperous rural home of A. Q. Durbin, who has made an excellent account of his time and energies as an Adams County farmer. His farm reflects his prosperity, and as is true of most other men this prosperity has been the result of long years of ungrudging toil, persevering effort, and an inspiration derived from the discontent which the hope of better things arouses.

Mr. Durbin is a native of Adams County, born here June 15, 1862, a son of Uri and Martha (Smith) Durbin. His parents likewise were natives of Adams County. The Durbin family was established here in pioneer times by Grandfather Harry Durbin, who came to Indiana from one of the Eastern states. The late Uri Durbin deserves the special memory and admiration of his descendants. Like his son, he began with limited means and his first homestead was only forty acres. Years of effort enabled him to clear and improve this, and he was always known as a hard working, industrious man. Many years ago he erected a log house which was the admiration of the entire district, since in many ways it was superior to most of the homes in that vicinity. It was as sturdy in construction as the man who built it. The boards for the floor were hewn by hand, there was an old fashioned broad fireplace, and unlike many of the houses of that time there were windows on all sides. It was in this substantial log house that eight children were born, namely: George W., deceased; Robert E., deceased;

John T.; A. Q.; Margaret A., deceased; Alexander M.; Joel E.; and Mary Anne, deceased.

A. Q. Durbin grew up on his father's farm and his early advantages were confined to the common schools. When he married and took up individual responsibilities it was on a rented farm, and for twenty-nine years he continued as a renter, though in the meantime he had made land purchases of his own and had begun the improvement of his present farm. The successive purchases he made in acquiring his present homestead are interesting as indicating the range of prices within the present century. The original forty acres of his home he bought in 1901 for $650. In 1905 he bought twenty acres for $1,100, and in 1912 he rounded out his eighty acre farm with another twenty acres costing $2,850. Every acre of his farm is susceptible to cultivation and he has a group of valuable buildings, having recently completed a model country home.

On June 15, 1887, Mr. Durbin married Annie E. Herron, daughter of Jonathan and Catherine (Matchett) Herron. Her parents were both natives of Ohio. Mrs. Durbins' brothers and sisters are: William L., Clara B., Rachael E., Sarah L.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Durbin: Ona May, born February 16, 1888; Oca Pearl, born March 8, 1891; Ora Blanch, born November 26, 1893; Orva Henry, born February 6, 1901; Ivy Gertrude, born September 6, 1903; and Omer Sylvester, born January 30, 1908, and died March 15, 1908. The daughter, Ona May, is the wife of Henry M. Cook, of Adams County, and they have three children, Glen E., born November 2, 1910; Gale H., born July 13, 1913; and Esther, born March 13, 1916. The only other child married is Oca Pearl, who is the wife of Grant Springer of Adams County.

The Durbin family are members of the Dunkard Church. Mr. Durbin is a prohibitionist in his political affiliations, and is a member of Monroe Camp No. 6840 of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Harry Deam. A man of excellent business capacity, far-seeing and progressive, the late Harry Deam was for many years closely identified with the advancement of the industrial and mercantile interests of Bluffton, Wells County, contributing his full share toward the prosperity of the community in which he lived. He was born in Bluffton, Indiana, in the early '50s, the son of an early pioneer of Wells County, Wilson Deam.

Wilson Deam came to Indiana in pioneer days, settling in Wells County, where he spent the remainder of his life, for a number of years having run a livery business in Bluffton. He married for his second wife Mrs. Mary Kiskadden, who was an aunt of that popular actress whose stage name is Maude Adams. Four children were born of their union, namely: Belle, widow of Rev. Mr. Wallace, residing in Dayton, Indiana, has one daughter, Mrs. Harry Collins, and two granddaughters; Harry, the special subject of this sketch; Harriet, a twin sister of Harry, married Isaac Moulton, and died a few years later, leaving one son; and Ida, wife of Rev. G. G. Copeland, a retired Presbyterian minister living in Bluffton has two sons and one daughter, all of whom are married. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Deam are buried in Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton, where his death occurred, her body having been taken there when she died and placed beside his.

Brought up in Bluffton, Harry Deam was educated in the public schools, obtaining a practical education. After attaining his majority he became associated with his father, whom he eventually succeeded in business. Enlarging his operations, he added to his livery business that

of an undertaker, and for many years managed them both successfully and satisfactorily. Ambitious to enter a broader field, Mr. Deam in 1909 took up his residence in Riverside, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where he established a substantial business which he conducted on a remunerative scale for a number of years, through his wise management acquiring a handsome property. He died when scarcely past manhood's prime, his death occurring February 2, 1914, at the age of fifty-seven years. He was a steadfast republican in politics, and a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons.

Mr. Deam married, in Decatur, Indiana, Miss Jessie Allison, who was born, in 1860, in Adams County, at Lynn Grove. Her father, Robert Burns Allison, born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, January 19, 1833, was left fatherless when a small lad. At the age of ten years he became a wage earner, serving as clerk in a general store. Four years later his mother brought him and his two sisters to Adams County, Indiana, coming with two of her brothers, John and Josiah Crawford, to Thompson Prairie, where she kept house for her brothers for a number of years after their arrival, in 1847, later living with her children, and now, a bright and active woman of four score years, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Jane Crabb, widow of Perry Crabb, late of Decatur.

After coming to Adams County with his widowed mother and his sisters Robert Burns Allison was employed as a clerk in the store of James P. Crabb at Decatur. Later he embarked in mercantile pursuits on his own account, becoming head of the firm of Allison & Crabb. Prosperous in his undertakings, he subsequently opened a mercantile house at Berne, Adams County, and as head of the firm of Allison & Morrow built up a large trade. Leaving the Berne store in charge of his son, Mr. Allison in 1872 came to Decatur, and in company with Messrs. Studabaker and Nuttman established the Adams County Bank, of which he was made cashier. In 1883, his health becoming seriously impaired, he resigned the cashiership of the bank, and thereafter lived retired at his pleasant home, 225 Adams Street, until his death, October 16, 1908. Mr. Allison was a well known and highly respected man, and his death was a loss to the entire community as well as to his family and friends. He was a republican in politics but not an office seeker. He belonged to all of the branches of the Masonic Order, having been especially prominent in the Mystic Shrine.

The maiden name of the wife of Robert B. Allison was Catherine Vance, to whom he was married at Lynn Grove, Adams County. She survived her husband a few years, passing away at her home in Decatur in March, 1914. Both she and her husband were active and valued members of the Presbyterian Church. She reared three children, namely: Frank died at the age of three years; Rufus King; Mary Vance; and Jessie, now Mrs. Deam. Rufus King Allison succeeded to his father's business at Berne, and afterwards was assistant cashier of the old Adams County Bank. He died at Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1916, leaving a widow and two children, V. Marie and Robert B. Mary Vance Allison married Frank G. Macke, a real estate dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, and they have one son, Robert Burns Macke.

Mrs. Jessie (Allison) Deam and her stepdaughter, Mary Craig Deam, now occupy the old Allison homestead in Decatur. The maiden name of the mother of Miss Deam, Mr. Deam's first wife, was Magdale Craig. She was born at Ossian, Wells County, being the only child of David and Elizabeth (Salter) Craig. David Craig, who was of Scotch parentage, was born in Canada, January 1, 1834, and in 1841 came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Craig, to Jefferson Township, Wells County, where he spent the larger part of his life, dying in April, 1914. He was a re-

publican in politics, and cast his first vote at the very first election held in that township. His wife, Elizabeth Salter, was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1837, but was reared and married in Jefferson Township, where, on January 1, 1892, her death occurred. They were both Scotch Presbyterians. Miss Deam is a woman of culture and refinement and a college-bred girl, having completed her studies at the Glendale, Ohio, College. Both Mrs. and Miss Deam are prominent in the social circles of Decatur, and active members of the Presbyterian Church.

Esais W. Dailey has made his success as a practical farmer and is one of the live and progressive citizens of St. Mary's Township in Adams County. He has lived practically all his life in that one locality, and his dependability has been a prominent characteristic in all his relations. His home is in section 9 of St. Mary's Township.

Mr. Dailey was born in that locality in June, 1863, a son of James T. and Mary (Johnson) Dailey. His grandfather, James Thomas Dailey, Sr., was born in County Cork, Ireland, and was ten years old when brought by his parents to the United States. His father was a sea captain and was drowned at sea. James Thomas Dailey soon after coming to America was left an orphan and for a number of years found it a difficult matter to earn a living and uncover prospects for the future. At Baltimore, Maryland, he learned the shoemaker's trade and from there went to Virginia, where he married and where he took up farming. From that state he moved his family to Athens County, Ohio, buying land in Lee Township, and lived there honored and respected until his death at the age of seventy-seven. His children were Eliza, Rebecca, Matilda, Esais, Nimrod, Robert, William, James T. and David.

James T. Dailey, Jr., was born in Virginia, but was reared in Athens County, Ohio, and lived there until he was twenty-two. He then came as a pioneer settler to Adams County, Indiana, locating in St. Mary's Township and bought a portion of the wilderness and constructed his cabin in the midst of the woods. That land was the scene of his laborious activities the rest of his life. He was reared a democrat but afterwards took up with the republican doctrine. He married Mary Johnson, who was born in Harrison County, Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Davis) Johnson. Joseph Johnson was born in West Virginia, married there, and in 1836 became an early settler in Van Wert County, Ohio, where he spent the rest of his years. James T. and Mary (Johnson) Dailey had twelve children: Nimrod, Davis, Mary, Joseph, Rebecca, Amy, Samantha, Almina, Emily, Maggie E. and James T., twins, and Esais W. Seven of these are still living, Davis; Mary, a widow living in Van Wert County; J. J. Dailey of Blue Creek Township; Mrs. Emily Moses; Maggie; James T.; and Esais W.

Esais W. Dailey grew up on the home farm and supplemented his education in the public schools by courses in the National Normal College at Lebanon, Ohio. With this preparation he became a successful teacher and taught both in Adams County and in Van Wert County, Ohio. Along with teaching he carried on farming and after his marriage gave all his time and attention to farming.

March 31, 1903, Mr. Dailey married Laura Bunner. She was born and reared in Adams County, and died February 28, 1914. Mr. Dailey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bobo, Indiana, as was also his wife. Mr. Dailey is a republican in politics and has served as county central committeeman. The fine farm he owns and controls consists of 355 acres, and it has been kept up to a high

degree of efficiency under his direction. He breeds and feeds good grades of livestock.

His older brother, Davis Dailey, a farmer living three miles southeast of Decatur, was born in section 9 of St. Mary's Township, July 2, 1844, was well educated and for twelve years taught school. He married for his first wife Almina Lee and they had two children, Cora L. and Lee N. His second wife was Alice C. Smith, who became the mother of two children, Rollie and Alice. Davis Dailey married for his third wife Ellen Kern, and they have one child, Elizabeth. Davis Dailey is a republican but has never held any office. He has been a successful and enterprising farmer and has 240 acres.

Prof. Martin F. Worthman. In the history of the public schools of Decatur, Indiana, there is perhaps no man to whom greater credit is due for their development or who has been identified with them in a more important way than Prof. Martin F. Worthman, who now occupies the position of city superintendent. From the year 1908 until the present time he has labored steadily in various capacities, not alone in the instruction of the young, but in endeavoring to elevate the system, and it is to his credit that he has succeeded in attaining many of his ideals and that these have been gained without thought of self-advancement or glorification.

Professor Worthman was born on a farm in Preble Township, Adams County, Indiana, April 20, 1883, a son of Lewis and Sophia (Bloemker) Worthman. His grandfather, Ernest Worthman, was born in Germany, of old Lienen, Kreis Tecklenburg, Westphalen stock, and after marriage immigrated to the United States, arriving after a voyage of fourteen weeks on a sailing vessel at the port of New Orleans, from which city he made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, then by wagon to Fort Wayne, and finally to Adams County, where he arrived in 1855. He was able to secure a wild farm for a small consideration (eighty acres for $500), and there continued to carry on agricultural pursuits until 1864, clearing his land, cultivating it, and establishing a good home and valuable property. In the year mentioned he was drafted for service in the Union army during the Civil war, but upon reaching Indianapolis was suddenly stricken with sickness and passed away June 8, 1873, Mrs. Worthman surviving him some thirty years. They were members of the Reformed Church and honest and honorable people who were much esteemed in their community. Of their family of eight sons and three daughters, three children are now deceased.

Lewis Worthman, father of Martin F. Worthman, was born on the homestead place in Preble Township, Adams County, in 1860, and was still a small lad when his father died. He worked hard in his youth, received a common school education, and for years worked on the home farm, which he finally purchased. He still makes his home there and is energetically prosecuting his agricultural labors, in which he has been successful because of his intense industry and good management. A democrat, he is active in the local councils of his party and is considered an influence in his community, where his sterling integrity counts for much. Both he and his family belong to the Reformed Church. Mr. Worthman married Miss Sophia Bloemker, who was born in Adams County in 1861, of German ancestry. She passed her entire life in Adams County, where her death occurred just before Thanksgiving Day, 1915. Martin F. Worthman is the eldest of eleven children, of whom eight are living, and four are married. One brother,

Rev. Edward, is a Reformed minister with a charge at Kaukauna, Wisconsin. He graduated from Mission House College, Plymouth, Wisconsin, and has now preached for several years. Another brother, Reverend Mathew, after a nine-year course, is also a graduate of the college at Plymouth, and is prepared for the Reformed ministry.

Martin F. Worthman attended the public schools of Marion, the Angola Normal School, and the State Normal School at Terre Haute, from which he was graduated with the class of 1910. Prior to this, however, he had entered actively upon his profession, his first experience being gained in the Brandyberry School in Washington Township, where he taught in 1902 and 1903. Later he taught in Preble Township, and in 1908 was made principal of the West Ward School at Decatur. During 1910 and 1911 he was identified with grammar grade and high school work, and in 1912 was made principal of the Decatur High School, where he taught mathematics. This position he held until 1916, when he became superintendent of city schools, his present position. Under his supervision at this time are the four schools of the city and twenty-nine teachers.

Professor Worthman married a young woman who had grown up in the same neighborhood as her husband, Lydia Freuchte, who was born, reared and educated in Preble Township, where her father, Henry Freuchte, is still operating his farm at the age of sixty-five years. Mrs. Freuchte died in 1888. Professor and Mrs. Worthman have two daughters: Mildred S. and Lillian S., aged respectively eight and seven years, and both attending school. The family belongs to the Reformed Church. Politically he is a democrat, and his fraternal connections are with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias, in the latter of which he is a past chancellor. Professor Worthman comes of a family remarkable for its physical build. His ancestors were all large people, and his brothers and sisters are well built and strong. His brother, Reverend Edward, is over six feet, two inches in height and built proportionately, and he himself stands over six feet, one inch, being large and strong in body.

Edward S. Christen, who was elected to the post of county superintendent of public schools in 1914, has given the best years of his life to education, having been a teacher or school administrator since 1889. He has taught in country districts, has been principal of ward schools, teacher in high schools, and is a graduate of the State Normal at Terre Haute with the class of 1896. Mr. Christen taught his first school in district No. 1 of Root Township. This school was held in the first brick building in the county, a building erected by his grandfather, John Christen, Sr. Mr. Christen's work as an educator has covered a wide field, and he has had schools in Allen, Knox, Vigo, Sullivan, Marion and Carroll counties outside of his native county.

His work as a school man has been done in a period which has involved many of the most fundamental and significant phases in the educational system of the country. He has always been an exponent of progressive and practical ideals and by his experience has worked out plans and methods which during the past three years he has applied in making the schools of Adams County vital institutions in the welfare of the coming generation. When he began his work nearly thirty years ago there were doubtless several of the old familiar type of log schoolhouses in the county. At the present time the school equipment of Adams County comprises only nine frame schoolhouses, while eighty-four of the schools are housed in brick structures and there is one concrete building. At the present writing there are under construction

three township high school buildings, each to contain from five to eight rooms, and an even more notable addition to the school facilities is the splendid $100,000 high school building at Decatur now going up. Decatur has three ward schools. Under Superintendent Christen's supervision are more than a hundred fifty teachers, including ten or twelve principals. Each year he conducts a county teachers' institute.

Mr. Christen is identified with Adams County by many family associations. He was born on a farm in Root Township and acquired his early training in the local district schools. He is of Swiss ancestry. His great-grandparents were John and Elizabeth (Segerzer) Christen, who spent all their lives in Switzerland. The grandfather, John Christen, Sr., was one of the notable pioneers of Adams County. He was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, August 9, 1812, and as a youth learned the trade of baker. In July, 1835, he married Miss Elizabeth Shaad, who was born in Switzerland January 17, 1814, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Christen) Shaad.

In 1850 the Christen family came to America and soon afterwards settled on a farm in Root Township of Adams County. This land was partly improved, about fifteen acres having been cleared and a log cabin and a log stable erected. The family lived in the one room log cabin nine years, when John Christen, Sr., constructed an addition of hewed logs, giving them two rooms on the ground and a half story upper room. In 1875 he erected a fine brick house, regarded at that time as one of the most complete and substantial dwelling houses in the county. John Christen, Sr., was a very active citizen, a democrat in politics, served as township trustee ten years, and he and his family were members of the Reformed Church. He and his wife had twelve children, all but two of whom were born before the family came to America. John Christen, Sr., and wife died in Root Township when nearly ninety years of age.

They reared their children on the old farm, and several of their sons and daughters are still living. John Christen, Jr., father of the county superintendent, was born in Switzerland October 5, 1844, and was six years of age when he came with his parents to America. He grew up on the old homestead in Root Township, had a common school education, and in the winter of 1871 taught his first term of school. Altogether he taught for about fourteen years during the winter, but throughout this time and later made farming his chief occupation. He finally retired from the farm and is now living retired at Decatur quite feeble from the weight of more than three score and ten years. He has been a life-long democrat, very active in the councils of his party and a citizen whose influence has always been for good. John Christen, Jr., married July 22, 1870, Miss Catherine Magley. She was born in Root Township December 25, 1850, daughter of Christian and Mary Magley, her parents natives of Switzerland coming to Adams County from Licking County, Ohio. They were members of the English Lutheran Church. Christian Magley died in August, 1861, at the age of thirty-nine, as the result of an accident. He had cleared up a good farm in Root Township. His widow was faithful to her first love through all the remaining years of her life, and died at the age of ninety. John Christen, Jr., and wife had the following children: Edward S., born December 13, 1871; Arthur A., born October 12, 1873; Minnie C., born October 14, 1875; Henry W., born November 25, 1877; Wilburt C., born January 21, 1884; and Raymond D., born September 19, 1885.

Edward S. Christen married in Adams County Fannie Marlow. She was born in Sullivan County, Indiana, and is the same age as her husband. She grew up in her native county and was a teacher there be-

fore her marriage. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Marlow, spent their active lives in Sullivan County, where her father died at the age of eighty-seven and her mother when past seventy. They were members of the Christian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Christen are active in the English Lutheran Church. He belongs to the Subordinate and Encampment degrees of Odd Fellowship, has filled various chairs in the order, has been district deputy and has represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge. He is also a working member of the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic Order.

Mr. and Mrs. Christen have a family of children who have shown excellent ability in their studies and are all earnestly contemplating useful careers in the world. The oldest, Ellis M., born April 13, 1897, graduated from the Decatur High School in 1915, and is now preparing for a career as a scientific farmer, being a student in the agricultural department of Purdue University. The second child, Catherine, graduated from high school in 1915, taught two years and is now a student of domestic science at Purdue University. Naomi Ruth, aged seventeen, is a student in the city high school, and Ferguson E., aged fifteen, is in the sophomore class of the high school. The youngest is Margaret L., now in the eighth grade of the grammar schools.

Jacob J. Liechty. Occupying a noteworthy position among the practical and skillful agriculturists of Adams County, Jacob J. Liechty is the owner of a well equipped and valuable farming estate in Monroe Township, his comfortable dwelling, his barns, farm machinery and stock all bespeaking the supervision of an intelligent and progressive business man. He was born June 22, 1854, in Switzerland, a son of Jacob and Mary Liechty, and a grandson of Peter and Mary Liechty, who were life-long residents of their native land.

In 1855 Jacob Liechty came with his wife and children to this country, and for a number of years thereafter lived in Wayne County, Ohio. Removing from there to Adams County, Indiana, he bought forty acres of timbered land lying about four miles northwest of Berne, and there, in common with his pioneer neighbors, he bravely and cheerfully labored to clear and improve the homestead.

Spending the days of his childhood in Wayne County, Ohio, Jacob J. Liechty was educated in the common schools, and after coming with his parents to Monroe Township assisted his father in the arduous task of reclaiming a farm from its original wilderness. Finding farming to be a congenial occupation, he has made it his chief pursuit in life. In 1903 Mr. Liechty bought eighty acres of his present farm, and with undaunted energy began its improvement. Successful in his efforts, he subsequently bought twenty-five and one-half acres of adjoining land, and now has a fine farm of 105½ acres that in size, location, fertility and productiveness compares favorably with any in the vicinity.

Mr. Liechty married Regina Luginbill and into their pleasant home nine children have been born, namely: Amanda, born January 28, 1885; Rhoda, born September 4, 1887, married Robert Sprunger and has three children, Donald, Edgar,. and Powell; Hiram, born October 28, 1889; Elmer, born January 6, 1892. and his twin brother, Wilbert, deceased; Oswald, born April 26, 1894; Dennis, born May 7, 1896; Clifton, born December 9, 1898; and Franklin, born February 2, 1901. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Liechty are faithful members of the Mennonite Church. In politics Mr. Leichty is independent, voting without regard to party prejudices.

Delmer F. Leonard is one of the progressive business men of Decatur, and has utilized his experience and abilities to successful advantage in the real estate field. He is head of the firm Leonard & Oliver, with offices in the Peoples Loan & Trust Building and handling general real estate. The business was established in 1912 under the name Leonard & Harvey. In the fall of 1915 Mr. Harvey removed to Mercer, Ohio, and was succeeded by Marion Oliver. The business of the firm has been built up on substantial lines and on the basis of fair dealings. They handle farm lands throughout Adams County, also in Western Ohio and Southern Michigan, and are the leading local representatives for lands in Western Canada. A large amount of city property in Decatur has passed through their hands as real estate brokers.

Mr. Leonard has had an experience which entitles him to respect for his fine judgment and reliability in all matters of real estate. He was born in Vermilion County, Illinois, September 12, 1874, and was reared and educated in that county. His people came from New York State. He is a son of James and Sarah (Chambers) Leonard, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Indiana. They married and started as farmers in Vermilion County, Illinois, near Potomac, where they were successfully engaged in farming until the death of James Leonard on September 4, 1913, at the age of sixty-seven. His widow is still living at the age of sixty-six in the town of Potomac. Both parents were active members of the United Brethren Church, the father was a democrat and was honored with several local offices in his township. Delmer F. Leonard was the second child in the family. The oldest, William C., is a farmer in his native county and has a family. Lydia died at the age of thirteen. Frank E. is a farmer at Thorntown, Illinois, and is married and has a family. Emil is a business man at Tiffin, Ohio, and also has a family.

Delmer F. Leonard after completing his education applied himself to the business of farming and other pursuits and thereby laid up a fund of experience which proved of the greatest value to him since entering the real estate field. He has been a resident of Decatur since 1911. In Illinois in 1896 he married Miss Bird Helvie, who is several years younger than her husband and was born and reared and educated in Vermilion County, Illinois. Her parents are still living at Potomac, her father being a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard have one of the good homes on First Street in Decatur. They have children: Muriel M., born November 24, 1897, a graduate of the Decatur High School and by her marriage to Virgil M. Krick, manager of a tile factory at Auburn, Iowa, is the mother of two young children, Barbara, aged 3, and Phyllis; Alla A., born November 20, 1900, is a student in the Decatur High School with the class of 1918; Bernice M. born August 5, 1902, in the class of 1920 in the local high school; Mildred I., born November 25, 1904, in the eighth grade of the public schools; and James A., born November 21, 1906. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Leonard is affiliated with Lodge No. 65, Knights of Pythias.

Isadore A. Kalver. A man of sterling worth and ability, ambitious and progressive, Isadore A. Kalver of Decatur is widely known in Adams County as a member of the Kalver-Noble Garage Company, which owns and operates a garage, and has the Adams County agency for the Ford cars. The company, which was formed in the fall of 1914, has a large and modernly equipped garage on West Madison Street, the fine two-story building being 128 feet by 44 feet, and most conveniently

located. A full line of automobile parts and equipments are kept on hand, and all kinds of repair work is promptly and skilfully done, the twelve workmen in the well furnished machine shop being amply qualified to attend to the wants of all patrons. Associated with Mr. Kalver as partners in the business, are two eminently useful men, Guy C. Noble, an expert machinist, who has been connected with the business for fourteen years, four of them being with this firm, and Luther D. Howard, an experienced business man, who has spent the greater part of his life in, or near Decatur. The company has also two outside salesmen, who are especially faithful to the best interests of the firm.

Mr. Kalver was born, in 1878, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was carefully reared and educated. As a boy, he was taught the Hebrew language, and attended the public schools, his early education being subsequently advanced at a private school in Chicago and at a business college in Fort Wayne. Completing his studies, Mr. Kalver located in Decatur, and for sixteen years was successfully engaged in business as a dealer in wool, hides and furs. Since establishing his garage, he has met with characteristic success, his business being in a flourishing condition. Mr. Kalver has one brother, Jacob B. Kalver, who lived in Decatur five years, but is now engaged in the clothing business in Chicago. The brother is married, and has two children, Walton and Jerome.

Mr. Kalver married, in Chicago, Sarah Zinn, who was born, in 1879, in New York City, but was reared and educated in Chicago. Her parents, like those of her husband, were born in Europe. She was the youngest daughter in a family consisting of seven sons and four daughters, all of whom are married, nine of the children living in Chicago, while one son, the youngest, is in business in New York City. Mr. and Mrs. Kalver have two children, namely: Ray L., a freshman in the Indiana University at Bloomington; and Robert, a pupil in the eighth grade of the public school.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalver are active and valued members of Temple Agudath, Versiblom Congregation. Fraternally Mr. Kalver is a Mason, belonging to the local lodge and chapter, and is a charter member of Decatur Lodge No. 993, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Dick Townsend. Decatur is the home of one of the most widely known hotel men in the Middle West. Dick Townsend has been in the hotel business almost continuously since he was eighteen years of age. Some of his earliest experiences were gained in Decatur. He went from this city to some of the largest cities in the country and some of the finest hotels, and it is doubtful if any resident of Indiana knows more about the ins and outs and the technical and practical details of hotel management than Dick Townsend.

Mr. Townsend claims Adams County as his birthplace. He was born in Root Township in 1860, grew up in the county, attended St. Mary's parochial schools and also graduated from the city high school at Decatur. His first employment was with the old Burt Hotel at Decatur, where he worked as a bell hop and as a bus driver. After a few years he was promoted to the management of this old time hostelry, and he was at its head for fifteen or twenty years and during that time greatly improved its facilities, added to its comforts and made it one of the leading houses for the entertainment of the traveling public in this section of the state. In the meantime for seven years the Randall House at Fort Wayne, owned by Perry A. Randall, enjoyed its greatest period of prosperity under Dick Townsend's management. Mr. Randall paid him a large salary for those days to manage this

house. In 1897, leaving Fort Wayne, and selling his interests at Decatur, Mr. Townsend took the management during 1897-98 of the Grant Hotel at Minneapolis. The owner of this property was Tom Taggart, whose enterprise made West Baden one of the most famous resorts in America and who for years has been the democratic chieftain of Indiana. While at the Grant Mr. Townsend served the first buffet luncheon that was ever a formal part of a hotel service west of New York City. The service was carried out with great eclat and success, and was given for the special benefit and entertainment of democratic friends of Tom Taggart who were visiting Indianapolis from Chicago.

After his experience at the Grand in Indianapolis, Mr. Townsend returned to Decatur and again assumed the management of the Burt Hotel, being with it until it burned down in 1906. He was then with the National Hotel of Peoria, Illinois, until that structure was destroyed by fire in 1911. This fire caused a personal loss to Mr. Townsend of $46,000, and was the worst disaster he has ever had in his entire business experience. The following year he spent at Kansas City operating the Stockyards Hotel. He then managed the Oliver Hotel at South Bend, Indiana, for a few months had charge of the Ebbitts House at Washington, D. C., was manager of the Palmer House at Paducah, Kentucky, and until June, 1917, was head of the Great Northern Hotel at Chicago. At that date he retired at least temporarily from the hotel business, and came back to his old town and his old friends at Decatur.

Mr. Townsend's grandfather, Rufus Townsend, who was born in New York State, one of a family of fourteen brothers, was for many years engaged in business as a hop grower in Albany County, New York. He died at Rensselaerville in that state at the age of ninety-four. His son Eli Townsend, father of Dick Townsend, was one of three children and was born in Albany County. Quite early in life he went into the show business as an actor, and spent many years traveling about over the country. While on the road he met and married Lea Katie Burt, a native of New York State. In her day she was one of the best known stage dancers of the country. After their marriage they continued on the stage for a number of years. Eli Townsend died at his father's home in Albany County, New York, in 1866. His widow survived him more than half a century, passing away at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in March, 1917, when about eighty years of age. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Jeffries. Her father, Chester Burt, is well remembered by Adams County people. He was born in Chenango County, New York, and for many years was on the road as a showman. Late in life he came to Decatur, Illinois, and became proprietor of the hotel which bore his name until it was burned on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1906, while his son-in-law Mr. Townsend was in charge. Chester Burt died during the early '70s. He was born about 1800. At Decatur he became one of the organizers of the Masonic Lodge, and was also known as a stanch democratic voter.

Dick Townsend first married Jessie L. Allison. By that marriage he had one son, Burt Allison Townsend, who was born at Decatur about thirty years ago. He finished his education in the Howe Military School, and held the rank of lieutenant and captain. At one time he was clerk in the Claypool Hotel at Indianapolis, and for a number of years has followed the example of his father and has been active in hotel work. Burt A. Townsend married Ruth Parsons, daughter of a well known physician of Chicago now deceased. They have two young children: Dick Allison, three years old, and Burt Parsons, born in 1916.

Mr. Dick Townsend married for his present wife Iantha C. Gregory.

She was born at Decatur in 1872 and is a graduate of the Decatur High School, after which for several years she was a clerk in the old Adams County Bank. Her parents were A. C. and Lucy (Burt) Gregory, native of New York State, but they married at Decatur, where her father for a number of years was a painter and house decorator. Her parents died in this city when about sixty-eight years of age. Her father was a republican and a Thirty-second degree Mason.

Mr. Townsend is a charter member of the Masonic Lodge of Decatur, is affiliated with the local Royal Arch Chapter, with the Fort Wayne Commandery of Knights Templar and with the Indianapolis Consistory of the Scottish Rite.

Simon Gilliom. A resident of Berne in Adams County for thirty years, Simon Gilliom has been one of the leading lumber merchants there for about twenty-one years, and is now manager, secretary and treasurer of the Gilliom Lumber Company. This business was incorporated in 1903 with a capital stock of $20,000, and is one of the largest and most complete organizations for furnishing building material and supplies in the entire county. The president of the company is Amos Reusser, and the vice president is John Winteregg. It is a large and successful enterprise, and has been built up steadily through a long period of years largely through the exertions and business judgment of Mr. Gilliom. They have a trade practically all over Adams County.

Mr. Gilliom was born in Wayne County, Ohio, July 2, 1861, but is of the sturdy mountaineer Swiss stock, and inherits from his forefathers the principles of liberty and the spirit of enterprise which are characteristic of that country and its people. For many generations back the Gillioms have been devout and faithful members of the Mennonite Church. His great-grandfather was Adam Gilliom and his grandfather was Christian Gilliom, both of whom spent all their lives in Switzerland. Christian was born in 1800 and died in 1826.

Abraham Gilliom, father of the Berne merchant, was born about 1830, came to America as a child with his widowed mother. They crossed the ocean on a sailing vessel, and about 1840 located in Wayne County, Ohio. In that county he married Miss Anna Hostetter, who was born in Berne, Switzerland, about ninety years ago. She was quite young when she came to America with her parents and this family also located in Wayne County, Ohio.

When Simon Gilliom was about eight years of age his parents moved to Hickory County, Missouri, and his father died there a few years later. All the children were born in Wayne County, Ohio. Christian lived near Berne, Indiana, and is married and had a family. Peter is a retired farmer at Berne and is also head of a family. Abraham, Jr., lives in Cass County, Missouri, and has sons and daughters. Elizabeth is the wife of Peter Raber, a Missouri farmer, and they have children. Sarah married Samuel Soldner of Berne, Indiana, and they are now surrounded by sons and daughters. Simon is the next in age. Daniel is a piano tuner.

Simon Gilliom after his father's death began to earn his own way in the world and has really been dependent upon his own exertions since he was twelve years old. He made the best possible use of such advantages in school as he could secure, and as the previous record shows his success in business has been out of the ordinary.

At Berne, Indiana, Mr. Gilliom married Mary A. Reusser. She was born in this village and has spent most of her life here. Her people are also of Swiss stock, and came to the United States many years ago.

Her parents married at Berne, and spent active lives there, were faithful workers in the Mennonite Church, and died in advanced years. Mr. and Mrs. Gilliom are the parents of eight children. Milton E., born in 1885, was educated in the local schools, and by his marriage to Alice Rineker has a son Max V., born in November, 1917; Austin, who is twenty-seven years of age, is assisting his father in the lumber business, and is a young unmarried man, having completed his education in the local schools; Adina is a graduate of the Berne High School and is still at home; Martin H. is also a graduate of the local high school; Metta is now eighteen years old; and the three younger children, all in school, are Walter, aged seventeen; Clinton A., aged fourteen; and Leo E., aged twelve. All the family except the oldest child are active members of the Mennonite Church at Berne.

Ambros F. Shoaf. A long period of active years in the cultivation of the soil has brought Ambros F. Shoaf a fortunate degree of prosperity, so that by no means an old man he might be classified as retired, has, as a matter of fact, retired from the active cares and responsibilities of farming and is now enjoying a comfortable city home in Decatur at 731 Mercer Avenue.

Mr. Shoaf left his farm on December 1, 1917, to take up his residence in the city. He came to Decatur from Washington Township, where he still owns a well improved farm of nearly eighty acres in section 24. This land is all in cultivation except six acres in timber. He has been owner of this place for the past six years and prior to that had owned a good farm in section 26 of the same township, having bought it in 1900. He went to Washington Township from a farm in the western part of Kirkland Township of Adams County, where he had lived from boyhood.

Mr. Shoaf was born in Hocking County, Ohio, January 1, 1860, and was brought to Adams County in 1867 by his parents, John and Mary (Hutchinson) Shoaf. His father, a native of Germany, came to this country when a young man and married in Hocking County. His wife was born in Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania parentage. After their marriage they settled on a farm in Hocking County, and all their children were born there. A brief record of these children is as follows: Joseph, a successful farmer living six miles west of Decatur, who has never married; Ellen, who died after her marriage to Samuel Henderson, whose home is now in Kansas, and of her three sons the only one now living is Charles; Ambros F., who was the third in age; William, who lives with his brother Joseph in Kirkland Township and has a family of five sons and four daughters.

John Shoaf died not long after he came to Adams County, at the age of sixty-eight. His widow passed away at the home of her son William twenty-five years later, aged seventy-five. Both were devout Christians, members of different churches.

Ambros F. Shoaf grew up and received his education in Washington Township. November 27, 1886, he married Miss Rosa Snyder. She was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1868. Her parents, Jacob and Jane Snyder, were also natives of Ohio and spent their lives on a farm near Wiltshire, where they died in middle life. Their daughter, Mrs. Shoaf, was one of a large family, and three of the sons and three of the daughters are still living. Mrs. Shoaf died November 17, 1900, having been married nearly fourteen years. She was the mother of four children: Lola G. is the wife of Gilbert Strickler, a well known miller at Decatur. They have three children, Clarence, Robert and Paul, the two older now nearly through the common schools. Ada M.,

the second child, married Floyd Shink, a farmer in Monroe Township, and they have two daughters, Dorothy and Helen. Floyd M. is unmarried and operates his father's farm. Roy O. is employed by his uncle, Mr. Strickler, in the Bremerkamp grist mill.

On November 18, 1906, Mr. Shoaf married for his present wife Mrs. Samantha (Andrews) Cassel. By her first husband, Webster Cassel, she has one son, Harry, born December 12, 1886. This son now lives at Plymouth, Indiana, and married Edna Rosenbauch, their only child being deceased.

Mrs. Shoaf was born in Adams County, Indiana, September 2, 1862, and was reared and educated here. Her parents, Jeremiah and Jane (Bertsinger) Andrews, were natives of Ohio but were married in Adams County and spent their active careers as farmers. Her father died here October 4, 1904, at the age of sixty-four and his widow is still surviving with her children at the age of seventy-seven. The Andrews family are all Methodists, and Mrs. Shoaf is active in her church. Her father was a republican and Mr. Shoaf is affiliated with the democratic party.

Otto Reppert has been a factor in business circles at Decatur for a number of years and has developed a general machine and repair industry, with his shop located on North Eleventh Street. Mr. Reppert is an all around machinist, competent and capable in working out almost any problem that is presented to him and has laid the foundation of a business that is sure to grow and prosper under his capable management.

He built his present shops in July, 1913. They are equipped with electric motor power and have all the appliances required for his work in general repairing. Before he built his present plant he was for several years operating the Van Camp shops. He learned his trade by his own efforts and is a practical foundryman of thorough experience.

Mr. Reppert was born in Preble Township of Adams County July 16, 1873. He was reared and educated at his home in the country and remained there until he came to Decatur about fifteen years ago.

His father, Peter Reppert, was born at sea while his parents were coming to this country on a sailing vessel. That was in the year 1843. In the same year his parents, Frederick and Anna (Kaufman) Reppert, arrived in Preble Township of Adams County, establishing their first home in the woods. They cleared a space for their log cabin and subsequently burned in their big fireplace many of the trunks of the trees thus cut down. Frederick Reppert was one of the most industrious of the early settlers in that township and in the course of time had 180 acres cleared and in cultivation and eventually gave each of his four sons eighty acres. Frederick Reppert died in Adams County in 1893. He was born in 1800. He survived his wife a number of years. They were active members of the German Reformed Church. Their children were named Jacob, Fred, Dorothy, Peter and Christ, and of these Fred and Dorothy are still living. All of them grew up and had families.

Peter Reppert married in Preble Township Lizetta Berneke. She was born in Preble Township. Her father, William Berneke, was a native of Germany and coming to Preble Township in an early day improved a farm and lived there until his death. He and his wife were active members of the Reformed Church. William Berneke was an all around mechanic and Mr. Otto Reppert probably owes some of his ability in this line to this maternal grandfather. Peter Reppert and wife after their marriage took up farming on the old homestead, and

they lived successful and honored lives there until he passed away in 1888. His widow survived him about fifteen years. They were active members of the Reformed Church and Peter was a democratic voter. Their children were: Simon, who died at the age of twenty-one; Otto; and Martin, who lives at Preble and by his marriage to Martha Krutzman of that township has one son, Milton.

Mr. Otto Reppert married in his native township Susie Borne. She was born in that locality of Adams County April 22, 1873, and received a good education in the local schools as she was growing to womanhood. Her parents, Jacob and Mary E. (Scherry) Borne, were both born in one of the Rhine provinces of Germany, but they spent most of the years of their active lives as well-to-do farmers in Preble Township. Her father died at the age of seventy-two and her mother at seventy-four. They were Reformed Church people and as a family were democrats. Mr. and Mrs. Reppert are members of the German Reformed Church, and he too follows the political principles of his forefathers.

Ferguson A. Peoples is member of a very enterprising business firm of Decatur, Peoples & Gerke, his partner being Henry Gerke. They have developed a large business as dealers in shoes at 142 North Second Street. They have a fine business home 20 by 80 feet, and carry a complete line of footwear suitable for all demands and tastes. These young men came to Decatur and established their present business January 7, 1910. They bought the stock of the old veteran shoe merchant Mr. Tague and for the first two years were in business on the west side of Second Street, and then moved to their present well equipped store.

Both Mr. Peoples and his partner were born in Root Township of Adams County. Mr. Peoples was born October 25, 1878, and Mr. Gerke on December 14, 1877. Both grew up on farms, were educated in the district schools, and though trained to farming pursuits they have displayed exceptional business ability since removing to the county seat.

Mr. Henry Gerke is a son of the late William Gerke, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and came with his parents to America in 1836. The Gerke family arrived at Decatur in Adams County, Indiana, in February, 1837, and soon afterward moved to their home in Root Township. Their first home was a small log cabin containing only one room, used for sleeping quarters, while the family practically lived out of doors during the first summer. A better home was provided in a hewed log house, which the family occupied until 1854, when that was replaced by a large and commodious frame residence. William Gerke was three years old when brought to Adams County, and for many years gave his time and efforts to the cultivation of the soil on his farm in Root Township. He died there at the age of sixty-four. In 1862 he married Louisa Johnson, who was born in Allen County, Indiana, in 1840, and is still living, at the age of seventy-seven, in Fort Wayne. William Gerke and wife had a family of ten children. The Gerke family encountered all the trials and hardships incident to pioneering in Adams County and many incidents of that early time as experienced by the family have been told as part of Adams County history. William Gerke and his family were all active members of the Lutheran Church and in politics the Gerkes have supplied numerous democratic voters in the county.

Ferguson A. Peoples is a grandson of William and Mary (Rittenhouse) Peoples, both natives of Pennsylvania. They married in their native state, and at an early day came to Root Township of Adams

County. A few years after they came to Adams County William Peoples was engaged in digging a well. While working at the bottom of the excavation he was overcome by those noxious gases known familiarly as "damps" and thus his career was ended at the age of thirty-six. He left a widow with small children. His wife bravely struggled to make both ends meet and she succeeded in bringing her children to maturity and all of them lived to be quite old. Two of them are still living, John R. and Mrs. Agnes Cline, the latter of Decatur.

John R. Peoples, father of the Decatur merchant, was born in Root Township seventy-six years ago, and was reared by his brave mother, whose struggles and sacrifices in his behalf he amply repaid in later years and tenderly cared for her until her death at the age of eighty-three. She always attended the United Brethren Church. John R. Peoples grew up as a farmer and made that his life long business, and he is now living retired at Ayr, North Dakota, making his home with his son Samuel and his daughters Maggie and Susie. John R. Peoples married in Root Township Sarah J. Aber. She was born in that township in 1836, and the Abers were also among the pioneers who were in Adams County at the time of its organization. Sarah Peoples died on the old farm where she was born and which she and her husband owned and cultivated for many years. Her death occurred in 1907. Both were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and John R. Peoples has always been a sturdy democrat. They had a family of four sons and four daughters. One daughter, Eva, died unmarried at the age of thirty-five. The three children still living in Adams County are John A., Mrs. Edna Brown and Ferguson A. One other son, Alonzo, lives in Texas.

Ferguson A. Peoples was married in Root Township to Miss Ella M. Magley. She was born in that townhsip thirty-one years ago and was well educated in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Peoples are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a Knight of Pythias and Mrs. Peoples has filled all the chairs in the Pythian Sisters. Mr. Peoples had a prominent part three years ago in organizing the Decatur Band, and he fills his part in that organization with the alto horn.

Rev. William Jackson Myers, Ph. D. To grow old gracefully, and to retain the habits and tastes which make old age congenial, is a rare achievement. It is an achievement which has been attained to perfection by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Myers of Decatur, who have spent more than half a century of married companionship, and are among the oldest and most respected people of Adams County.

Mr. Myers is a man of wide and long experience. He was a prominent educator for many years, has been a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was also in business at Decatur as a manufacturer, and has lived an exemplary life in every respect.

He was born near Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, May 21, 1839, a son of Christopher Frederick and Christina (Havich) Myers. His parents were both natives of the same town of Wuertemberg, Germany, where the father was born in 1803 and the mother in 1809. They were of old German Lutheran stock. After their marriage one son was born to them in the old country, Frederick. In the summer of 1828 they set out for the New World, leaving port at Havre, France, taking passage on a sailing vessel, and sixty days later landing in Philadelphia. They moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where for a time Frederick Myers followed his trade as a shoemaker at Millport. Four years later he moved to Wayne County, Ohio, and bought a farm. He cleared and cultivated this in connection with his regular trade. In 1850 he

came to Decatur, Indiana, buying land near that town, and here he lived as a farmer until his death on January 20, 1860. His wife died November 26, 1879, at the age of seventy. After coming to this country they joined the Methodist Church and lived and died in that faith. Frederick Myers together with Thomas Fisher and James Crabbs were the leading spirits in constructing the first church of the Methodist denomination at the corner of First and Jackson streets in Decatur. That old pioneer church building is still standing, though no longer used for a house of worship, a few years ago having been fitted up as a local theater. It was supplanted by the new church erected in 1882. This church stands at the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets. In the family of Frederick Myers and wife were nine sons and one daughter, all of whom grew up but one, three dying about the time they reached maturity. The first born in the United States was Godfrey, who when the war with Mexico came on enlisted and marched with the army of General Scott from Vera Cruz to Mexico City and was soon afterwards granted his honorable discharge. He suffered greatly from the inroads of disease while in the army, and died in the fall of 1848, soon after his return home. For his services in the war he was granted a land warrant of 160 acres in Wells County, Indiana. This was transferred to his parents at the time of his death. His parents also bought another adjacent warrant from another soldier, and they came to Indiana for the purpose of locating this land. While on their way they stopped at Decatur, and the father decided to buy land near that city, selling his places in Wells County. Of the children only two are now living, William J. and James. The latter is a resident of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and has a family of three sons and one daughter.

William J. Myers was about eleven years old when the family came to Adams County and his education begun in Ohio was continued here in the district and select schools. In 1857 he entered the Indiana State University at Bloomington, and was a student there for two years into his sophomore year. During the winter of 1860-61 he taught the district school at Pleasant Mills in Adams County and in the summer of 1861 taught a select school at Decatur. In the fall of that year he was employed as principal of the Decatur schools and was in that office until 1863. He then entered Vermilion Institute at Hayesville, Ohio, and a year later entered Washington and Jefferson College at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. He was graduated in the class of 1866. He was a very industrious student, and displayed that breadth of mind while in college which has always marked him whether as a business man or student. The title of his thesis at the time of his graduation from Washington and Jefferson was "The Masses," and it was largely on the strength of this able article that he was awarded the principalship of the high school at Steubenville, Ohio. He remained there two years when in 1868 he became superintendent of the public schools at Cadiz, Ohio, where he remained fourteen years. Various honors of a scholastic nature came to him. In 1872 he was elected to the Chair of Agriculture in his alma mater, but declined that office. In 1874 Franklin College in Ohio conferred upon him the degree Master of Arts, and in 1875 gave him the honorary degree Doctor of Philosophy. While at Cadiz he served as one of the county school examiners and was a trustee of Franklin College.

Ill health compelled him to give up his school work and in 1882 he returned to Decatur and became associated with his brothers David L. and James M. under the name Myers Brothers in the manufacture of woolen goods. The Decatur Woolen Mills was continued with a fair degree of prosperity for about six years. About that time the local

mills suffered from the heavy competition due to the operation of various "shoddy" mills throughout the country, and as Mr. Myers would not consent to a lowering of the standards of his production he finally sold his interests and left the business altogether. Since then he has taught school, has been a wholesale coal merchant, has dealt in insurance, and has been busied with his engagements as a preacher. In 1884 Mr. Myers bought his present home at 234 North Fifth Street, and he and his good wife have lived there continuously for thirty-four years.

He preached his first sermon fifty years ago in Steubenville, Ohio. While at Cadiz, Ohio, he was appointed to a vacancy as presiding elder. He has carried some heavy responsibilities of church work, both as a lay preacher and as one who is extremely interested in the welfare of the church in every department. For many years he has been elder of the church in Decatur, was superintendent of the Sunday school, and for over thirty years was teacher of the Men's Bible class. In politics Mr. Myers began voting as a republican, but eventually shifted to the prohibition party. He was nominated by that party in 1886 for state senator.

July 9, 1867, in Ashland County, Ohio, William Myers married Miss Eliza Jane Hunter, who was born in Carroll County, Ohio, May 31, 1842, daughter of George and Rosanna (Harkless) Hunter. She was eight years old when her parents came to Adams County, Indiana, and in 1863 the family moved to Ashland County, Ohio. Mrs. Myers was educated partly in the schools of Decatur and in the spring of 1863 entered Vermilion Institute at Hayesville, where she attended three years. She was reared a Presbyterian, but since her marriage has been an active Methodist and has closely co-operated with her husband in the various departments of church and Sunday school work. Six children were born to their marriage, two of whom died young, one in infancy, and Emma at the age of seven months.

Of the four living children the oldest is Rev. George Hunter Myers, who was born in 1870. He attended DePauw University at Greencastle, also the university at Syracuse, New York, and completed his theological training in the seminary at Boston. While yet a student he was ordained at Richmond, Indiana, and supplied many pulpits. Since graduation he has become one of the leading ministers in the Northern Indiana Conference. He is now engaged in special work, requiring travel all over the country, for endowment fund purposes. At Decatur he married Lila Shrock, a native of that city, a graduate of the high school and a teacher for some years. They have two daughters, Ruth and Margaret, both talented musicians and students in DePauw University.

The second child of William J. Myers and wife is Anna, now wife of Robert Harding, who is purchasing agent with the General Electric Company at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Wilhelmina, the second daughter, married Rollo C. Pifer, who is prominent in Young Men's Christian Association work with headquarters at St. Louis, and is now stationed with the army Young Men's Christian Association at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Pifer have three children: Anna H., Isabel R. and Alice M. Mary, the youngest of the family was educated at Decatur and married Emery J. Wilson, a graduate of Princeton University. Mr. Wilson is a consulting engineer, living in Cleveland, Ohio. They have one child, Mary Jane.

JOHN S. PETERSON. One of the leading insurance men of Decatur, John S. Peterson, proprietor of the Decatur Underwriting Company, is widely known as a man of sterling worth and integrity, and as a

most loyal and public-spirited citizen his influence and assistance are always sought in behalf of undertakings for the public good and the advancement of the best interests of the community. A native of Adams County, he was born in Decatur, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Robert S. Peterson. He comes of pioneer stock, his grandparents, John W. and Margaret Peterson, having been among the earlier settlers of Adams County, coming to this state from Ohio.

Born in 1845, Robert S. Peterson grew to manhood on the parental homestead in Saint Marys Township. On February 12, 1864, he enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry, and being commissioned second lieutenant of his company served in that capacity until the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge from the service at the close of the conflict. Returning to Decatur, he began the study of law under the tutelage of Judge David Studabaker. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar, and for nearly forty years thereafter was actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Decatur, retiring in 1904, seven years prior to his death, which occurred March 16, 1911. An active member of the republican party, he was influential in the ranks and served as a candidate for circuit judge of the county and as a congressman from the twenty-sixth district, but his territory having been a democratic stronghold, he was defeated at the polls. He was a Presbyterian in religion, and a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The maiden name of the wife of Robert S. Peterson was Fannie C. Kunkle. She was born in Monmouth, Root Township, Adams County, Indiana, in 1849, and is now living in Decatur.

Soon after his graduation from the Decatur High School, John S. Peterson embarked in the insurance business, and for more than twenty years was successfully employed in that line. Being made assistant postmaster during President Roosevelt's administration, Mr. Peterson served faithfully and acceptably in that position for four years, from July 1, 1906, until July 1, 1910, Maynard A. Frisinger having at that time been postmaster. After leaving the postoffice, Mr. Peterson organized in 1910 the Decatur Underwriting Company, of which he became secretary. In the meantime changes in the personnel of the company have taken place, and since 1915 Mr. Peterson has been sole proprietor of the extensive business built up by the underwriters with whom he was associated. He carries on a general insurance business, specializing with the Indiana Life Insurance of Indianapolis.

Mr. Peterson married, in Adams County, Indiana, Olive Hale, who was born in Decatur, in 1873, a daughter of John D. and Caroline (Holmes) Hale, and to them three children have been born, namely: Robert H., J. Dwight and Lois L. Robert H. Peterson, the oldest child, born October 21, 1894, was graduated from the Decatur High School, and subsequently attended the Indiana State University for four years. Leaving college, he returned to Decatur and helped organize Company A, Fourth Indiana Infantry, of which he was commissioned first lieutenant. He was first sent with his command to Fort Harrison, Indianapolis, and from there to Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Lieutenant Peterson was later transferred to Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth United States Field Artillery, with which he is now associated. J. Dwight Peterson, born in April, 1897, was graduated from the Decatur High School with the class of 1914, and is now a junior at the Indiana State University. Both he and his brother are members of the Sigma Phi Fraternity, and of the College Editorial Fraternity. Lois L. Peterson, born April 2, 1905, is an eighth grade pupil in the public school.

Fraternally Mr. Peterson is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of the Knights of Pythias; and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Politically he is a stanch republican. Religiously he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Otto L. Kirsch. A prominent and successful representative of the lumber trade of Northeastern Indiana, Otto L. Kirsch, a well-known resident of Decatur, is actively identified with one of the foremost business firms of Adams County, being secretary and treasurer of the Kirsch & Reppert Lumber Company. He was born August 25, 1883, in Bellmont, Wabash County, Illinois, of German ancestry. His father, Mathias Kirsch, of whom a brief sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, was born in Germany, and at the age of four years in 1860, came with his father, Christopher Kirsch, to this country. He was a man of eminent ability, and is still actively identified with the advancement of the lumber interests of the great Middle West.

Having completed his early education in the public schools, Otto L. Kirsch spent four years in the Michigan woods, where he thoroughly mastered every detail of the lumber business, becoming familiar with every operation that converted the standing tree of the forest into the marketable building material of the lumber yards. Thus well qualified for business, he became secretary of the firm of Kirsch, Sellemeyer & Sons Company, which was incorporated in 1912, with Mathias Kirsch as president; H. H. Sellemeyer vice president; and Mr. Kirsch, of this notice, as secretary. A change in the firm was made in the fall of 1917, Mathias Kirsch continuing as president, with Mr. Reppert vice president, and Otto L. Kirsch as secretary and treasurer.

This business is one of the longest established of the kind in Adams County, having been started about thirty years ago by Mathias Kirsch and Erastus Fritzinger, who, at the end of two years sold out to Sellemeyer & Company, who managed it until 1907, when another change was made, Otto L. Kirsch becoming secretary of the new firm. In addition to dealing in dressed lumber of all kinds, the firm has a large trade in a variety of building materials and in coal.

Mr. Kirsch married, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Elma Seeley, who was born, in 1888, in Fort Wayne, and was there bred and educated. Her father Henry Seeley, a native of Germany, came to this country with his parents in childhood, and has since lived in Fort Wayne. As a young man he was there for several years the manager of a candy factory, and later engaged in business as a grocer. His wife, whose maiden name was Maria Boerger, was born in Germany, and when a young girl came with her parents to Indiana and obtained her education in the schools of Fort Wayne. Both Mr. and Mrs. Seeley are members of the German Reformed Church. Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch have one child, Helen Kirsch, born December 20. 1910. Mr. Kirsch is a democrat in politics, and both he and his wife, true to the religious faith in which they were reared, are members of the German Reformed Church.

Seth D. Beavers. With thirty years of continuous experience as a physician and surgeon, Doctor Beavers is one of the oldest members of the medical profession in Adams County. He began practice in May, 1887, and since then his field of effort has covered practically all of Adams County.

Doctor Beavers is a graduate of Rush Medical College of Chicago, securing his diploma in February, 1886. He has been a close student of medicine for many years, and in 1903 took work in the Post-Grad-

uate Medical School of Chicago and in 1909 attended the New York Polyclinic. After graduating from Rush Medical College he had his preliminary experience at Tocsin in Wells County, but soon came to Decatur, where he has built up a large and successful general practice. He is a member of many medical organizations, including the State, the Tri-State, the Mississippi Valley and the County Medical societies, and the Erie Railway Medical Society. He has filled all the chairs in the county society.

By accident of birth Doctor Beavers is a native of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where he was born during a temporary residence of his parents on August 21, 1860. At the age of three years his parents returned to Hocking County, Ohio, and a few years later moved to Adams County, Indiana, where most of his youth was spent. He attended the public schools, spent two years in the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, and was a teacher two years before entering the study of medicine.

Through the paternal line he is descended from old Irish stock and on the mother's side claims Holland-Dutch ancestry. His grandfather, John Beavers, was born on the high seas in 1787 while his parents were immigrating to America. These parents settled in Virginia and spent the rest of their lives there. John Beavers grew up and learned the trades of cabinet making and coopering and also followed farming. He married a Miss Updike, of an old Virginia family. In 1858 he moved to Ohio, locating near the old Rock House in Fairfield County, where the remainder of his useful and honorable career was spent. He lived to be ninety-six years of age, surviving his wife fifteen years. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. John Beavers was accounted a wealthy man in Virginia, had a large estate and owned many slaves. Before the Civil war and when the agitation against slavery was at its height he freed his slaves, and on account of the bitterness thus engendered sought a home in the free country north of the Ohio River. He had six sons and daughters, all of whom grew up in Virginia, all married and had families of their own, and most of them died in Ohio.

Samuel D. Beavers, father of Doctor Beavers, was born in Virginia and was a young man when he moved to Ohio. He married Miss Lydia Weldy, who was born in Hocking County, Ohio, of Holland ancestry. Her parents spent all their lives on a farm in the Hocking Valley of Ohio, having moved there from the state of Pennsylvania. There was a large family of the Weldys and some of them later moved to Adams County, Indiana, where they were well known farmers. After the birth of two children in Ohio Samuel D. Beavers went back to Virginia for the purpose of settling up his father's estate. It was during this temporary residence that Doctor Beavers was born. The later children were born in Adams County. Altogether Samuel D. Beavers and wife had twelve children. Their home was in Kirkland Township, and originally was set up in the midst of the forest, comprising a log cabin. Samuel Beavers and his children gradually cleared up the land and made it a fine farm. Samuel Beavers was a democrat and the family were all active in the Methodist Episcopal Church, though later he joined the Brethren in Christ and was leader for many years.

Doctor Beavers married in Adams County Catherine Welfey, a native of this county. She died in the prime of life, the mother of one son, Benjamin. Benjamin received his early education at Wabash, Indiana, and later graduated from the Harvard University Medical School and is now a student in the Boston City Hospital. He is unmarried. For his second wife Doctor Beavers married Ida M. Andrews, also a

native of Adams County. She is a graduate of the Decatur High School and for several years before her marriage taught in Allen County, Indiana. They have two sons, William, aged twenty-three, and Wayne, aged seventeen. William graduated from the Decatur High School, attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada and took the engineering course in Purdue University at Lafayette. The son Wayne is member of the class of 1918 of the Decatur High School. Doctor Beavers and family are members of the Presbyterian Church.

JOHN W. BOSSE was commissioned postmaster of Decatur June 14, 1914, and his administration has been one of the most businesslike in the history of the office. The Decatur postoffice is a second class office, and it requires a small staff of men to handle the various departments of its business. The present assistant postmaster reappointed by Mr. Bosse is Mr. Hocker, who had been assistant for the four years before Mr. Bosse came into office. There are four clerks, G. W. Everett, money order clerk; Edward W. Macy, general delivery clerk; George Flanders, mailing clerk; and one other not yet appointed. The four city carriers are O. P. Mills, W. R. Dorwin, Harvey D. Rice and Neill Butler. The substitute carrier and man who handles the parcel post is Omer Butler. From Decatur radiate ten rural routes, each averaging thirty miles, and some of these routes have been in existence for fourteen years. The two oldest rural carriers are Henry A. Fuhrman and William H. Engle. Mr. Bosse succeeded William A. Lower as postmaster, Mr. Lower being one of the officials of the People's Loan & Trust Company.

Mr. Bosse has been an active figure in democratic politics in Allen County for a number of years, and has served as secretary and chairman of the County Democratic Committee. He is a native of the county, born at Decatur, October 5, 1858. He was educated in the city schools and at the age of eighteen began teaching. About the same time he went to work in the drug store of Dorwin & Holthouse and made so much of his opportunities while there that he was finally given a license as a pharmacist through practical experience and apprenticeship. He remained with the firm of Dorwin & Holthouse until 1882, when he sold his interests, and with Doctor Dorwin and Mr. Holthouse organized the Marshall Medicine Company, for the manufacture of proprietary remedies. Later Mr. Bosse bought the entire business and developed it with such energy that the Marshall remedies are now sold over a large part of the Union. Mr. Bosse continued actively at the head of this business for twenty years, and is still its principal owner, though since entering the postoffice his son has been manager.

Mr. Bosse is a son of the late Herman Bosse, who was one of the pioneer residents of Decatur, where he lived from 1849 until his death. Herman Bosse was born in Hanover, Germany, February 15, 1817, grew up there, learned the carpenter's trade and in 1843 married at his native village Margaret Holthouse. In 1844 they left their native land, and after a voyage on a sailing vessel of eight weeks landed in Baltimore and continued on westward by canal, river and railroad to Cincinnati. Herman Bosse found employment at his trade in that city, but in 1849, when cholera became an epidemic in Cincinnati, he and his family fled from its ravishings and traveled by canal to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and thence crossed the country to Decatur. Mrs. Herman Bosse's brother Bernard Holthouse had already established a home in Decatur. On moving to Decatur Herman Bosse engaged in the contracting and building business, which he followed actively for many years. He was also a local merchant for several years and in

1881 he took a contract to grade a section of the Chicago & Atlantic Railway. As a result of his many activities he acquired a modest competence and spent his last years in leisure. He died in 1900, at the age of eighty-three, and his wife passed away at the venerable age of ninety-six. Both were life-long members of the Catholic Church and were active and unceasing in their devotion to St. Mary's Parish at Decatur. Herman Bosse and wife had four children, Catherine, Frank, Mary and John William.

In 1894 John William Bosse married at Decatur Miss Catherine Durkin, who was born in Clinton County, Ohio, about fifty years ago, and came to Adams County with her parents when a young girl. She is a member of the well known Durkin family elsewhere mentioned in this publication. Mr. and Mrs. Bosse have long been working members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Bosse is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. He and his wife have three children: Leona, a graduate of the parochial schools, is now head bookkeeper of the Waring Glove Company of Decatur; Jerome is now in his second year in the Decatur High School, and Edmund graduated from the parochial schools in 1917.

William W. Briggs is the present postmaster of Geneva, and is an old resident of that town, formerly one of its leading merchants.

He was born in Hancock County, Ohio, in February, 1864, a son of William H. H. and Catherine (Harmel) Briggs. His parents were natives of Ohio and further particulars concerning the family will be found on other pages. However, it should be stated that the father moved to Geneva, Indiana, in 1872, and followed here his trade as a carpenter and contractor until his death. Their children were: Andrew G. Briggs, of Geneva; Albertus T., of LaPorte, Indiana, a Methodist preacher and a graduate of the Fort Wayne Methodist College and of De Pauw University; William W.; Ella, wife of J. R. Rodabaugh, of Montana; C. J., of Sidney, Ohio; and John E., of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

William W. Briggs was eight years old when his parents removed to Geneva, and here he finished his education in the public schools, attending up to the age of fourteen. After that he went to work as clerk in a general store, and gradually his industry and knowledge of merchandising enabled him to engage in business for himself. He was a hardware merchant of Geneva for ten years. In 1914 Mr. Briggs was appointed postmaster, and has since given all his time to the handling of the office and the administration of its affairs.

He is an active democrat, has filled the office of town clerk and is a member of the Knights of Pythias, being past chancellor of Geneva Lodge and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Richard G. Christen is a member of one of the oldest and most prominent Swiss families of Adams County, and has made his career one of exceptional usefulness and service. He graduated from the City High School at Decatur in 1897, and for a time was employed as a clerk by his father, who was at that time manager of the local gas company of the Natural Gas organization, with headquarters at Lafayette. After giving up this clerkship he went into the cigar and newspaper trade, conducting a well patronized stand in Decatur, and following that for three years was an employe of the Adams Express Company at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Christen has always taken an active part in local democratic politics and has been prominent in party councils.

At this writing he is closing his four year term as city bookkeeper of Decatur. He was appointed to that office by the city council in January, 1914, and recently was elected city clerk, his term of four years beginning January 1, 1918.

Mr. Christen is a grandson of the late John Christen, Sr., who was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, August 9, 1812. He grew up on a farm, but afterwards learned the baking trade. On July 17, 1835, he married Miss Elizabeth Schaad, who was born in Canton Berne January 17, 1814. In 1850 the family came to America and from New York City came west to Adams County, Indiana, settling on a farm in Root Township. The land was partly improved with a log cabin and a log stable and about fifteen acres cleared. The Christens had to be content with the facilities of their one-room cabin for nine years, after which additions were made and the general level of convenience and prosperity considerably raised. In 1875 the Christens erected a fine brick home. John Christen, Sr., and wife lived out their lives of usefulness in Adams County, were members of the German Reformed Church, and the grandfather was a democrat and filled the office of township trustee for ten years. He and his wife had twelve children, and many of the family are still found in this section of Indiana, all of them useful and honorable citizens.

Richard G. Christen is a son of Godfrey Christen. Godfrey was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, November 21, 1836, and was a boy when he accompanied his parents to Root Township of Adams County. He grew up on the old homestead and was old enough to bear a part in its clearing and development. When the war broke out he and one of his brothers entered the army, Godfrey becoming a member of the Twenty-seventh Infantry and for his gallant service was promoted to captain. He saw some of the hard and bitter campaigning in the South, but escaped wounds, and after the war returned to Adams County. For a few years he taught school, after which he married Miss Catherine Garver. She was a native of Pennsylvania, and had come to Root Township with her parents. The Garvers constituted a large family and were well known in the farming district of Root Township for many years. Her parents died when quite old. After their marriage Godfrey Christen and wife continued to live in Root Township until two of their children were born, and then removed to Decatur, where Godfrey Christen for two terms, four years, filled the office of county auditor. After leaving office he entered the lumber and planing mill business, and was in the ranks of local business men and a leader in the democratic party for many years. He died in September, 1910, and his wife in March, 1909, at the age of seventy-one. In Decatur they both attended the Presbyterian Church. Their children were: Catherine, Rose, Frank, Richard G., Ruby, twin sister of Richard, and Bruce. All of them are still living and all married except Rose, who is a teacher in the city schools of Decatur and lives with her sister, Mrs. Durkin. Ruby is the widow of Frank Durkin and the mother of two children. Catherine is the wife of S. C. France and their home is on Mercer Avenue in Decatur. Frank Christen now lives in Oklahoma, and by his marriage to Ethel King had two children, but both of them are deceased. The youngest, Bruce, is billing clerk for the Erie Railway. He married Alice Jackson, and their family consists of Helen, Daniel, Dorothy, Laura and Martha.

In Decatur Richard G. Christen married Miss Florence Campbell. She was born in Adams County forty years ago, and was educated in parochial schools. Her mother died some years ago. Mrs. Christen

is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, while Mr. Christen is a Presbyterian. They are the parents of three children: Catherine E., aged fourteen, and in the eighth grade of the city schools; Earl, aged ten, and in the fifth grade; and Virginia R., who is one year old.

Mr. Christen has recently completed a new, modern and convenient residence and has surrounded himself and family with many of the comforts in keeping with his local prominence as a citizen.

Peter Myer, whose long and industrious career identified him with Washington Township, retired from his fine farm in that part of Adams County in February, 1912, and has since lived at 923 Mercer Avenue in Decatur. He still owns his farm of eighty acres in section 21 of Washington Township, and he bought this place in 1894. It was the old Frank Gass farm, Mr. Gass having acquired the land direct from the Government. Many substantial values were added to the farm by Mr. Myer during his active ownership and control. He especially improved it in the way of drainage and the erection of substantial buildings. It has a large barn 35 by 72 feet, a corn crib with a capacity of 1,200 bushels, and several other structures which it would cost a large amount of money to duplicate at the present time. The buildings are well grouped and arranged for getting work done efficiently and promptly. The farm has a good residence of seven rooms. The land is admirably situated, is almost surrounded by good pike roads on the south, east and west, and on the west line of the farm extends an avenue of evergreen trees that mean much as a wind break. While the land has been farmed for many years its fertility has been well conserved, and Mr. Myer many times has produced crops of oats threshing 45 bushels to the acre, wheat 25 bushels and corn 70 bushels.

Mr. Myer has lived in Ohio and Northeastern Indiana for more than a quarter of a century. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 8, 1849, and comes of the thrifty Bavarian stock, his forefathers having all been farmers and all of them members of the Catholic Church. His grandfather, Peter Myer, was one of the soldiers from the southern German provinces who served under the great Napoleon. He was under that great leader almost sixteen years and yet there is no record that he was ever wounded or captured. He followed Napoleon in many of his campaigns throughout Europe and was in the most disastrous one, that against Russia, where he suffered untold hardships on account of the cold and the snows as the beaten army retreated after the Russian campaign.

The parents of Mr. Peter Myer were John Christ and Mary (Hess) Myer, both natives of Bavaria. The father served as a soldier under the first Emperor William. All the children were born in the old country, and some of them died there. Peter Myer was the oldest son. In December, 1865, when Peter was sixteen years old, the family left Germany, went through France by way of Paris, and at Havre embarked on the sailing vessel Margaret. The voyage that followed almost ended in disaster. The boat was on the ocean for sixty-seven days, and on account of storms and high waves nearly foundered. The ship arrived in New York harbor with its hold full of water and the passengers were all glad to escape the fate of a watery grave. After a week spent in New York the Myer family came on to Ohio and located permanently near Bellevue in Huron County. Here the parents secured sixty-eight acres of land but in 1868 gave up their Ohio farm and moved to Washington Township of Adams County, where John C. Myer bought 100 acres of almost completely wild land. After clear-

ing it up he sold and bought another farm, owned and cultivated this for a number of years and finally retired to Decatur, where he lived until his death, when past ninety-one years of age. His wife died in 1905, at the age of eighty-seven. From the time they came to Adams County they were active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and John C. Myer was a democrat. In their family were three sons and two daughters who are still living.

Mr. Peter Myer was almost a man in years when he came to Adams County, and here, after leaving home and starting out for himself, he married Catherine Lesser. She was born in Prussia, came to America when a young woman and died in Washington Township at the age of twenty-seven. She was also a member of the Catholic Church. All her six children, three sons and three daughters, died in infancy. Three years after the death of his first wife Peter Myer married at Otterville, Ohio, Mrs. Louisa (Hug) Troll. Her first husband, Joseph Troll, died at the age of thirty years. He was a native of Seneca County, Ohio, and of German and French parentage. At his death he left three children. The oldest of these, John, lives at Fostoria, Ohio, and by his marriage to May Parch has three children, Albert, Eleanor and Frances, the last dying in November, 1917, at the age of four years. Katie Troll, who lives in Fostoria with her children, Maria, Janet and Margaret, is the widow of W. McClellan, who died seven years ago. Joseph Troll is employed in the Allen car shops at Fostoria, Ohio, and by his marriage to Fannie Frankert has children named Louise, Richard and Martin.

While Mr. and Mr. Myer have no children of their own they have reared a foster daughter, Sophia Rosalia Troll, since she was two years old. She was born in Seneca County, Ohio, and was reared and has received a careful education at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Myer. She was in the parochial schools until thirteen, then in the grammar and high schools, and graduated at the head of her class in 1917. She has a certificate as a teacher and recently passed a civil service examination and has been assigned to a government position in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Myer contributed both means and labor to the building of the present edifice of St. Mary's Catholic congregation, and he and his family are regular worshipers within its walls. Politically he is a democrat.

Mathew F. Harris. Noteworthy for his keen intelligence and for the assured position he has attained in mercantile circles, Mathew F. Harris, a Decatur grocer, is meeting with undoubted success in his business, being junior member of the prosperous firm of Fisher & Harris. A son of Frank Harris, he was born June 22, 1877, in Butler County, Indiana, where his childhood days were spent.

Mr. Harris' paternal grandparents emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine to the United States, coming with their children in a sailing vessel and landing in New York. They subsequently lived a few years in Rochester, New York, from there moving to Edgerton, Ohio, where the grandfather, foreman of a section on a railroad, was accidentally killed, and where his wife afterward died.

Born in Alsace-Lorraine, Frank Harris was a lad of nine years when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents. He attended school in New York City and in Rochester, and after going to Rochester worked under his father as a section hand. Continuing in the railway service, he subsequently served in the transportation department at Kendallville, Indiana, and later being in the car department at Butler, Indiana, and

in Peru, Indiana. In 1900 he went to Indianapolis, and was there employed in the railroad shops until 1908, when he met with a fatal accident, slipping and falling while trying to mount an engine. He married, in Edgerton, Ohio, Elizabeth Theel, whose parents moved to a farm in that locality from Pennsylvania, where she was born. She died in Indianapolis before her husband's demise, while undergoing an operation. Of the ten children born of their union eight are living, and five are married, two of the unmarried daughters occupying the old homestead in Indianapolis.

Mathew F. Harris began his mercantile career as a clerk in the general store of Hugh McCaffrey in Peru, growing up in the business along with his present partner, Mr. Fisher. Mr. Harris developed good business energy and talent, and when the firm of which Mr. McCaffrey was made treasurer, with Mr. Fisher as president and Mr. Harris as vice president, was incorporated Mr. Harris was given charge of the hardware department, a position for which he was eminently fitted, having become familiar with dealing in that line of merchandise while with Mr. McCaffrey. In 1915, having placed the business of the Peru department store under the care of a supervisor or manager, Mr. Harris, in company with his old friend, companion and business associate, John Fisher, established himself in business at Decatur, Adams County, and as junior member of the enterprising firm of Fisher & Harris is carrying on a thriving and remunerative business as a cash grocer, his trade extending into all the nearby counties and into Ohio. The firm is advantageously located on Second Street, at the head of Court Street, and has an attractive stock of all kinds of staple groceries, Messrs. Fisher and Harris catering to the tastes and needs of their many generous patrons.

Mr. Harris married, in Logansport, Indiana, Catherine Huffman, who was born in that city, coming from German ancestry and parentage. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Harris, namely: Florence E., a student in the parochial school, has been confirmed in the Catholic Church; Mary V., a bright little lass of ten years, also attends the parochial school; George F., born in 1910; and Flotida, who was born during the memorable flood of 1913, just as her parents, who had been forced to flee from two different houses on account of the high water, arrived in a boat at the third house in which they sought safety.

True to the religious faith in which both were reared, Mr. and Mrs. Harris are members of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Politically Mr. Harris is a straightforward democrat. Fraternally he is a member of Decatur Council, Knights of Columbus; of Peru Council, Catholic Knights of America; and of Decatur Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose, in each of these orders being active and prominent.

Julius Haugk. The tilling of the soil was the first occupation to which Julius Haugk gave his attention after coming to Adams County about thirty-five years ago. Now, however, he is more widely known on account of his activity and prominence as a stone quarryman and as a road builder. He has built or has supplied the materials for building some of the finest stretches of improved highway in Adams County and in various other sections of this part of the state.

He is a successful business man and has been an equally alert and progressive citizen all the years he has spent in this country. His loyalty to America is all the greater because this country afforded him the opportunity which, by proper utilization of his energy and ambition has brought him a modest fortune. When he landed in America he had only $10 in cash and a suit case. He was born in the Kingdom

of Saxony, near Ludwig, on September 6, 1863. His ancestry for generations had been German tillers of the soil, and his father, Wilhelm Haugk, died in the old country in September, 1882, at the age of fifty-one. The father married Johanna Voght, who died in 1908, when nearly eighty years of age. Both parents were active members of the Lutheran Church. Julius Haugk is one of seven children. His five brothers are still living in the old country. He and his sister were the only ones to make America their home, and it was through means supplied by him that his sister was able to come to America. She is now Mrs. William Kling of Union Township, Adams County.

Julius Haugk had an early education and training of the thorough kind supplied by German institutions and schools. On September 6, 1883, his twentieth birthday, he embarked on a vessel at Hamburg, and thence by way of Hull and Liverpool, England, crossed the ocean to Quebec, Canada, and on September 27th arrived at Decatur, Indiana, making the entire journey in the rather quick time, for those days, of three weeks. Coming to Adams County, practically friendless, unknown and without capital, he at once showed the spirit of enterprise and energy which have been responsible for his subsequent success, and was soon earning wages and making friends in Union Township, where he lived for seventeen years. During that time he acquired a farm of 185 acres, and left it in a high state of improvement. He then moved to Root Township and was identified with farming for a number of years, but since 1902 has given most of his attention to the operation of stone quarries. While his home is at Decatur his business interests are wide-spread. He owns a fine farm of 137 acres in Root Township, with a complete equipment of house, barns and other facilities. His principal quarry is located on the Big Four Railway in the City of Decatur. Here he operates two crushers and has a complete equipment of other tools and facilities for the manufacture of crushed stone and of limestone for fertilizing purposes. His market is all over this section of Indiana, and during a large part of the season his equipment is worked to full capacity, 800 tons per day. He has organized the business so as to promote rapid work, capable of prompt fulfilling of contracts, and usually keeps about seventeen men employed. Mr. Haugk also owns the Ford garage block on West Madison Street, and has much other property, including 252 acres of land near Houston, Texas, lands in Tennessee, and a large stone quarry in Arkansas.

Probably no other individual operator has supplied the material or constructed more stone roads in Adams County than Mr. Haugk. Fully fifty miles of high class highway are to his credit. In 1903 he built the Woods Road on the state and county line in Blue Creek Township, a stretch of highway 6½ miles long. When the first stone road was being advocated in that township Mr. Haugk found a capable ally in the late James Winnie, one of the most popular men of the township, whose influence and efforts were largely instrumental in convincing the people of the permanence and the practical utility of stone roads and enabled Mr. Haugk to carry his point of getting a stone surface laid instead of other usual materials. Mr. Winnie is remembered for many other labors which he carried on and which made for the progress of the community and served to overcome popular prejudices that always stand in the way of forward movements. The year following the construction of the Woods Road Mr. Haugk supplied the material for more than ten miles of stone road in Blue Creek, Hartford and Washington townships. This constituted the largest single road construction enterprise ever undertaken in one year in

Adams County. The county engineer at that time was George McKain.

In 1904 Mr. Haugk married in Preble Township Miss Eliza Kiefer, who was born in that township February 14, 1871, and grew up on the farm where she was born, a daughter of Jacob and Matilda (Smith) Kiefer. Her father was born in one of the Rhine provinces of Germany and her mother in the Kingdom of Saxony, and they were young people when they came with their respective parents in the days of sailing vessels to America. The Kiefers and Smiths were sterling pioneer families in Preble Township of Adams County, where they put up with the simple comforts of log cabins in one of the wildest districts of the county. Mrs. Haugk's parents, Jacob and Matilda, are still living, the former at the age of ninety and the latter at eighty. The old pioneer Kiefer farm is now owned by their son, Martin Kiefer. Mrs. Haugk's grandparents lived to be very old and their names deserve to be associated with much of the commendable pioneer activities of this county. As church people they were loyal to the Lutheran faith. Mr. and Mrs. Haugk are German Lutherans and in politics he is a republican.

It now remains to say a few words concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Haugk. The oldest, Robert, is associated with his father in the stone quarry management at Decatur, and by his marriage to Hazel Butler, of Decatur, has two children, Robert, Jr., and Elizabeth. Agnes, the second child, married Mary Brittner, of Decatur. Herman is also with his father and brother in the quarry business and is married. Fred died at the age of five years. The younger children still at home, three of them in school, are Mary, Hulda, Anneta and Edna.

Adam J. Smith. As long ago as thirty years local publications in Adams County spoke of Adam J. Smith as prominent in the lumber business. At that time his name and the operations of his firm were known chiefly in a restricted field, but at the present time is undoubtedly one of the leading wholesale dealers in hardwood lumber in the Middle West.

He came to Decatur in 1884 and started to work for Colter & Company, sawmill operators, with mills at Arcola, Decatur and Monmouth, Indiana. His wages at the start was $1.75 a day. This was soon increased to $50 a month. His ambition and enterprise did not long keep him in the ranks of wage earners. On June 5, 1884, he began buying timber and lumber to supply the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company. In the fall of 1886 Mr. Smith associated himself with Alexander R. Bell under the name Smith & Bell, and they at once began extensive operations in logging and manufacturing ties for the Clover Leaf Railway. At that time the Clover Leaf was being changed from a narrow gauge to a standard gauge railway, all the way from Toledo to St. Louis. For two years the firm of Smith & Bell gave their exclusive attention to tie contracting. In 1888 they built their first sawmill at Decatur. They soon bought the old Coles sawmills at Liberty Center, Indiana, and a little later the old Adams sawmill at Bluffton. These were old established mills. A few years later they established a mill at Raymond, Indiana, and these four mills were operated at fullest capacity for a number of years. About 1905-06 the mill at Decatur was burned, making an almost complete loss. The firm soon after sold out the mills at Bluffton and Liberty Center, the visible supply of hardwood lumber having been largely exhausted in those localities. Since then the business has been wholesale dealers in hardwood lumber, and they have bought from the chief sources of supply in Indiana, Ohio, Kansas and Missouri. With headquarters at

Decatur, Mr. Smith has conducted a business of almost national importance. He has traveled in every state of the Union, to look after his business interests, and has been twice to the golden shores of the Pacific. He and his wife a number of years ago made a trip to Honolulu and while there they called on the old queen "Lil." Mr. Smith has shipped timber all over the country and into Canada. Mr. Bell continued his active associate and partner for many years, but finally withdrew, Mr. Smith purchasing his interests. At different times he has changed his source of timber supply, getting much material from the Southern states and also from Michigan. He has shipped lumber from coast to coast, and about three years ago he bought his brother's sawmill at Decatur, and has used this mill to manufacture an exclusive grade of white ash and walnut lumber. This lumber is sold to the manufacturers of automobile trucks. The white ash is gathered from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio and his mills sell in very large quantities. Some contracts have called for as much as $150,000 worth of timber at one time. He also owns and operates a hardwood lumber mill near Poland, Michigan. During the first four months of the year 1917 Mr. Smith supplied more than 450 carloads of lumber to his customers. Any man might feel a just pride in the quality of his patronage. Mr. Smith has business dealings with some of the largest consumers of lumber in the country, and it illustrates the high class of his business when it is stated that for years he has never had any losses to exceed $100 on any contract. Mr. Smith is one of those big and broad gauged business men who are generous in testifying to worth and value of their subordinates. He has surrounded himself with some of the picked men in the lumber trade, and has been willing to pay the highest salaries for capable men both in the operating and in the selling end of his business. Two of his trusted and efficient lieutenants are Mr. Anderson and Mr. Colter, who have done much to give efficiency to the business.

Mr. Smith was born near the Village of Cherubusco in Whitley County, Indiana, February 20, 1857. His parents were Henry and Catherine Elizabeth (Leppla) Smith, both natives of Bavaria, Germany. They were married in their native village in 1830 and in 1840 they came with three children on a sailing vessel to the United States. These children were Catherine, William and Henry. They established a home on a wild tract of land in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, but in 1856 moved to Whitley County, Indiana, where they again began the improvement and development of some new land. In 1886 the parents retired from the farm and moved to the Village of Cherubusco, where the father died three months later at the age of eighty-five. The mother passed away in 1891 at the age of eighty-eight. Both were active members of the Lutheran Church. Their oldest child, Catherine, married James Roach of Indiana, and both are long since deceased, having left a son and daughter who are now both married. The son William spent the last eight years of his life retired at Los Angeles, where he died in the summer of 1914, leaving a widow and children. Henry is still a farmer in Whitley County, Indiana, and has a family of children. Two other children were born to the parents while they lived in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, John and Phillip. John is married and lives in Cherubusco, Indiana, and has one daughter. Phillip is president of the First National Bank of Decatur, but lives at Richmond, Indiana, and is married and has a son and daughter. Adam J. Smith was the youngest of the family and he grew up on his father's farm in Whitley County, Indiana. He was educated in the local schools and also in the Valparaiso Normal and at the age of twenty-one began

teaching. He worked at that occupation for several years in Whitley County before he entered the real field of business activity at Decatur.

On June 5, 1884, Mr. Smith married Miss Atwilda Fonner, a native of Adams County, born and reared at the farm home of her parents, John A. and Elizabeth (Pillars) Fonner. John A. Fonner was a pioneer of Adams County, was born in Pennsylvania, September 11, 1826, and came to this county with his parents in 1841. He spent part of his youth in Athens County, Ohio, and after coming to Adams County, Indiana, he attended a pioneer school held in a blacksmith shop at the Village of Monmouth. John A. Fonner married January 9, 1856, Elizabeth Pillars, who was born and reared in Adams County. Her father, Benjamin Pillars, was born in Pennsylvania in 1815 and her mother, Sarah A. (Rice) Pillars, was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, May 27, 1815. The Pillars family came to Adams County and settled in Root Township in 1839, making a home in the wilderness. Benjamin Pillars built a sawmill on what was known as Seventeen Mile Creek. One of the old Indian trails in this part of Indiana ran through the Pillars farm. Both the Pillars and Fonner families accumulated a large amount of property in Adams County, and Mrs. Smith was born on her father's old homestead February 12, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one child, Edith Fonner Smith, who was liberally educated in the local schools and also in music, and is now the wife of William P. Schrock. They have one son, William P. Schrock, Jr., born in May, 1917.

Among other interests Mr. Smith is a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Decatur and had his chief emphasis not been placed upon the lumber industry he would be regarded as a highly successful farmer. He is owner of the old Fonner stock farm, and his land holdings amount to 500 acres of thoroughly improved land. He grows the finest of crops and has long had a reputation as a cattle breeder. His farm is equipped with every facility and building and every year sees some addition to the equipment. The stock farm was formerly conducted by the firm of Smith-Ulman for five years. At the end of that time Mr. Ulman bought lands of his own and Mr. W. F. Wilson became associated with Mr. Smith. They gave particular attention to the development of a splendid herd of thoroughbred Hereford cattle, and this herd, developed from the Fairbanks stock of that strain, was one of the finest anywhere in America. At the end of five years Mr. Wilson retired from the partnership. The Hereford cattle raised on the Fonner stock farm always commanded the top prices of the fancy stock market. Two of the bulls sold for nearly $12,000. During the last two years Mr. Smith's partner and manager of the stock farm has been his son-in-law, William P. Schrock. Mr. Schrock is a thoroughly practical farmer and stockman and continues to maintain the reputation of the Hereford cattle raised on the farm.

Mr. Smith is a republican in politics, has served as a member of the city council of Decatur and for three years as a member of the school board. He is affiliated with Kekionga Lodge No. 65 of Knights of Pythias, and with his family is active in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a trustee of the church and for twenty years has been a teacher of the Sunday school.

Sutton & Heller. This is one of the most successful law firms of Adams County, and is also in fact one of the oldest firms, the present associates being in a sense inheritors and successors of the law business developed and sustained through so many years by the late Judge David Studabaker, John T. France and Judge Daniel D. Heller. The firm of Heller, Sutton & Heller was organized in March, 1910, and continued

until January 2, 1917, when, on account of the death of Judge Daniel D. Heller, the firm name was changed to "Sutton & Heller." This firm has a large general practice, and are also attorneys for the Chicago & Erie Railroad Company and represent the Old Adams County Bank and other corporations and interests.

Jesse C. Sutton, senior member of this firm, was born at Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, in 1875. When he was three years of age he was brought to Geneva, Indiana, by his parents, Winfield and Louisa (Murray) Sutton. His parents lived at Geneva, for many years, and his father conducted a blacksmith shop in that town. Winfield Sutton's father John W. Sutton, was also a blacksmith, and spent many years in Illinois and Indiana, and died when quite old at Delphi in this state. Jesse C. Sutton grew up in the atmosphere of a blacksmith shop and learned the trade, spending three years at it, and became a skilled mechanic. The last year of his trade he took up the study of law and later he pursued his readings and studies under Clark J. Lutz and Schafer Peterson, and also with John T. France and James T. Merryman. In 1897 he was admitted to the bar and subsequently became clerk to Judge James T. Merryman, and after two years was admitted to a partnership with that honored lawyer and jurist. When Judge Merryman was elevated to the Bench in 1906 Mr. Sutton succeeded to his office and practice and in 1910 formed the partnership of Heller, Sutton & Heller as above noted.

Mr. Sutton is a republican and has been active in a local way, but has never sought office. He is affiliated with Decatur Lodge No. 573 of the Masonic order. In Wells County, Indiana, Mr. Sutton married Isabel Garnet White, who was born in that county and reared and educated there. They have a fine family of young people growing up in their home. The oldest, Winfield A., aged nineteen, graduated from Decatur High School in 1916 and is now a student of chemical engineering at Purdue University. The younger children are: Murray R., aged seventeen, a junior in the high school; Mary, who died at the age of two years; Harry White, aged thirteen and in the seventh grade; Jesse Carey, Jr., aged five and Richard Yule, aged three. Mrs. Sutton is a member of the Shakespeare and Research clubs respectively in Decatur. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Henry B. Heller, the other member of the firm was born at Decatur in 1875, a son of the late Judge Daniel D. and Anna J. (Corbus) Heller.

Henry B. Heller was educated at Decatur and after leaving high school became a law student in the office of Mann & Beatty. Mr. Mann is now in practice at Muncie, Indiana, and Mr. Beatty died in Decatur, in 1913. After two years with this firm Mr. Heller entered the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, from which he graduated in 1897. He was admitted to practice in the local courts in September, 1897, and after association with several lawyers and firms he formed a partnership with his father on March 1, 1902. His father had only recently left the bench as circuit court judge. The firm was known as D. D. Heller & Son, and continued until 1910 when it was changed to admit Mr. Sutton, at which time the title became Heller, Sutton & Heller. As such the partnership continued until the death of Judge Heller on January 2, 1917. Both Mr. Heller and Mr. Sutton have been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State of Indiana and in the Federal courts, and as individuals and as members of the firm they have handled a large volume of important litigation.

From 1907 to 1911 Mr. Heller was prosecuting attorney of Adams County. He has also served as town attorney for the Town of Geneva, and is now serving his fifth year as county attorney. He has served as

secretary of the Decatur Public Library for the past ten years; he has been actively interested in the welfare of the democratic party, and for several years last past he has served as chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, having served as such during the campaigns of 1914 and 1916. Mr. Heller was married at Decatur, Indiana, to Miss Pearl A. Butcher of Centerburgh, Ohio. She was born and educated in that section of Ohio, attended high school there, and later graduated from the business department of the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Heller have two children: Robert H. who has just entered the public schools and David B. who is five years old. Mr. and Mrs. Heller are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of this city, and Mrs. Heller is active in the Euterpean Club and is also a member of the Eastern Star.

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